

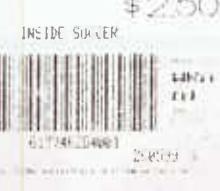
\$2.50

Inside Soccer

DISTRIBUTION BY WRAPAWAY (02) 9550 1622

25 MAY 1999

REGISTERED WITH AUSTRALIA POST AS A PUBLICATION: PP224656/00050 Incorporating Champion Soccer established 1992 ISSN 1321-8980
DUNEDOON PUBLISHING: Suites 4/5, 108 Railway Street, Corinal; NSW 2518. Australia. TEL: (02) 4285 7480 FAX: (02) 4285 7481 e-mail: insidesoccer@hotmail.com



FOOTBALL WINS



Sydney United versus South Melbourne: it is the football classic that everybody wanted

AUSTRALIAN soccer got the Grand Final that nearly every one wanted when Sydney United overcame a strangely lacklustre Perth Glory in the Preliminary Final at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

That has set up a meeting of first and second, although League Premiers United had to do it the hard way after being beaten over two legs by defending champions South Melbourne.

United coach Davie Mitchell has no intentions of being the bridesmaid and will take his own brand

of something old, something new, and something borrowed and, in his case, something red to Olympic Park next Sunday.

His mixture of State Leaguers, veterans, cast-offs and kids has performed wonders this season and he could well be on the threshold of a notable Grand Final victory.

Standing in Sydney United's way is South Melbourne, the pedigree side of the current season.

The Blues have got their own share of magic and in skipper Paul Trimboli arguably the finest player in

by Bruce Campbell

Australian soccer.

Trimboli is backed with class like keeper Michael Petkovic, having an outstanding season, and midfielder David Clarkson.

Clarkson missed the second leg of the semi final after a tragic car accident involving his two daughters.

But he is almost certain to be involved in South's Grand Final side and he could well be the match winner if he is on form.

But it could well be a soccer clas-

sic with both sides having outstanding attacking line-ups.

With finals in recent years tending to fade into boredom it is inconceivable that this match will be anything other than a cracker.

Both sides will have to attack right from the start with the early goal even more important in a game which will be decided on the day.

Should the game be drawn at the end of normal regulation time then it will go into sudden death extra time.

After that a penalty shoot-out will decide the champion of Australia — if necessary.

And other than the plaudits of Australian soccer, the Championship trophy and substantial cash prize, the winner will also represent Australia in the Oceania leg of the qualifier for the inaugural FIFA World Club Championship.

It is the classic contest of two sides committed to all out attacking football and for once Australia football has won — no more who is crowned champion come five o'clock next Sunday at Melbourne's Olympic Park.

Ascot
CAR & UTE RENTALS

SYDNEY, MELBOURNE,
BRISBANE, CAIRNS

CARS FROM \$29 A DAY

* CONDITIONS APPLY

www.ascotcarrental.com.au

NATIONAL RESERVATIONS

TEL: 13 24 94

INTERNATIONAL RESERVATIONS

PH: 61 2 9332 3777

FAX: 61 2 9332 3555

Vieri heads up overseas stars set for Sydney

By Ted Simmons

ITALIAN striker Christian Vieri (pictured) heads the first group of overseas players confirmed to take part in the FIFA international against the Socceroos at Stadium Australia next month.

FIFA announced seven players in its first group with another eight players verbally agreeing but yet to be confirmed.

Vieri will be joined by Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany), George Weah (Liberia), Leonardo (Brazil), Julio Cesar (Brazil), Bernard Lama (France) and Wynton Rufer (New Zealand).

Those yet to be finalised are Marcel Desailly

(France), Youri Djorkaeff (France), Jorge Campos (Mexico), Rigobert Song (Cameroon), Aaron Winter (Holland), Taribo West (Nigeria), Andrei Schevchenko (Ukraine) and Hakan Sukur (Turkey).

Australian coach Raul Blanco said FIFA had incredible talent available for the match which will be the official opening event for the main Olympic stadium.

He said: "FIFA might have some stars not available but the team will still be strong."

"There is unbelievable talent and it doesn't matter who comes.

"I can't find anyone there I don't like."

But the available talent

for Australia slipped with news that gifted midfielder Paul Okon could miss the game because of a possible broken bone in his leg.

Blanco will find out the full extent of the injury when he contacts Okon, who has been plagued by injury problems during his career.

Okon was expected to travel to Birmingham with the Lazio squad to contest the European Cup Winners' Cup final against Real Mallorca until the injury occurred.

The Socceroos will not be called to camp until one week before the FIFA match.

"Some of them are still playing in Europe but the majority of players will

come home except those travelling with clubs on tour," Blanco said.

"That will be a bonus for the team because they'll still be active and won't have a long break.

"Most of the overseas players need a short break to recharge their batteries.

"They will then have to return to pre-season training with their clubs to get ready for the start of the next season whereas the local Australian players will have been out of action for up to four months.

"At this stage, my concentration is on the FIFA game.

"After that, I'll see



who's available and start working on the (two) Manchester United matches in July."

Blanco has been in constant contact with the overseas-based Australians and said there had been a big response to

availability for the FIFA and United matches.

He said he had decided to recall the players when the time arose and wanted to allow them a breather, considering the number of matches played in the European

competitions.

He added: "I'll see what I need to strengthen the team.

"I know what we have available and I'm confident we'll have the strongest side possible."

SOLD OUT

If you are having trouble getting a copy of *Inside Soccer* in your local newsagent it may well be that he is selling out. As we struggle to keep up with the growing demand either ask your newsagent to reserve you a copy or ask him to increase his order.

Our distributor is
WRAPAWAY
Tel: (02) 9550 1622

Hodgson still looms as Socceroo candidate

IT seems that Roy Hodgson's name is to be indelibly linked with Australian soccer and the vacant national team coach's job until Soccer Australia makes a final appointment.

Rumours emanating from Paddington are split on who will land the big job - Sydney United's Scottish born coach Davie Mitchell or Englishman Roy Hodgson.

South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou is also a much favoured front runner.

And while Mitchell remains the people's fa-

vourite even those within the corridors of power who also back him are aware of the big push for Hodgson.

Australian soccer officials will get another chance to woo the Englishman with his appointment to the coaching staff of the FIFA All Stars team.

Hodgson has been one of the favourite for the job, being filled on an interim basis by Raul Blanco since the end of Terry Venables' spell in charge of the national team. Hodgson is currently caretaker coach of

giant Italian club Inter Milan, with its season just finished.

He then gets to guide the cream of world talent in the FIFA All Stars team which plays the Socceroos on June 12 in a game to officially open Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

Hodgson earned international acclaim for getting Switzerland into the 1994 World Cup finals and coached England's Blackburn Rovers after his first spell at Inter.

But it seems that Hodgson's reputation has been built largely on that iso-

lated success.

Since then success at the top level has eluded him and in recent seasons he has failed with both Inter Milan and Black-

burn Rovers.

He resigned from the Blackburn manager's job in the face of massive public outrage after the former English champions slumped to bottom place in the English Premier League.

Hodgson's detractors in Australia point to the fact that he has not won a major trophy in football

despite having the backing of two football millionaires.

Neither has he an illustrious playing background and prior to his four year spell in charge of the Swiss national team he was largely anonymous in the world of football.

Sydney United coach Dave Mitchell is recognised as the leading local candidate for the national job, with the money required to lure Hodgson seen as a factor in the local's favour.



HIGH QUALITY SOCCER PRODUCTS

Official Ball Licencee of Soccer NSW

Official Ball supplier to the Australian Women's Soccer Association

FIFA Approved FIFA Inspected Match Balls

The Australian Owned Sports Brand

Trade Enquiries: (02) 9826 7033

BAHRAIN MATCHES OFF

DUE TO Bahrain's inability to field a team for the Under-17 World Championship Qualifiers on Saturday, May 22, 1999 in Canberra and on Friday, June 4, 1999 in Bahrain the matches had been deferred.

FIFA are now seeking alternative dates suitable to both Soccer Australia and the Bahrain Football Association.

Soccer Australia Chief Executive David Woolley said: "We are very disappointed with the decision handed down by FIFA. Soccer Australia has adhered to the original dates communicated by FIFA on 11 March, and this deferral clearly has an adverse affect on our preparations."

Factfile
Roy Hodgson

Born - August 9 1947

Playing career (1965-75):
Crystal Palace
Maidstone Utd
Berea Park (South Africa).

Honours: None.

Managerial career:
Halmstad (Sweden, 1976-80) - two championships.

Bristol City (1982) - stepped up from assistant manager to Bob Houghton and was in charge for 27 games until club were relegated to old Fourth Division.

Taken on by Orebro in Sweden.

Moved to Malmo (1985-90) - five consecutive championships, two Swedish Cups.

Neuchatel Xamax, Switzerland (1990-92).

Swiss national team (1992-1996) - in 1994 they qualified for first World Cup finals in 28 years and qualified for Euro 96.

Inter Milan, Italy, (1995-1997). Seventh in Serie A in 1995-96, UEFA Cup finalists 1996-97.

Blackburn Rovers (1997-1998). Joined in June, Blackburn finished the season sixth and qualified for UEFA Cup. Knocked out in first round of

UEFA Cup in September 1998 and went bottom of English premier league in November. Hodgson resigned that month.

Inter Milan (April 1999) - Returned as technical director.

Sharks on the rocks, Falcons under administration, Parramatta on the sidelines what once looked likely to be a settling format for next season is turning into

NSL CHAOS

by BRUCE CAMPBELL

IT WAS a week when the future format of the National Soccer League was starting to take shape according to expectations – and then all of a sudden it was almost back to the drawing board.

It had widely been expected that the admission of Auckland Kings into next season's competition would be backed up by at least one other club – with the bid from Sydney's Parramatta Leagues Club likely to be the one that got the nod.

That would make 17 teams if the status quo remained, and would clearly be one team too many.

Favoured for the chop were the financially troubled Gippsland Falcons and that took a step closer to happening when they appointed an administrator last week to handle their financial woes.

The club has teetered on the brink of financial despair almost since day one and current estimates of their indebtedness are somewhere in the region of \$3million.

A string of staff changes at the administrative level was further indication of just how bad the club was.

When Stuart Munro left the Morwell side for Carlton two weeks ago the die looked to be cast.

And last week Colin McDonald of chartered accounting firm Horwath Partnership took charge of the club.

McDonald is at the Falcons after an extraordinary meeting of members on Wednesday night moved to solve the long running crisis.

Officials of Gippsland are still confident that the club will survive.

"We had to do this after our big meeting," president Fred Di Sipio told the *Herald Sun*.

"It will give the club a clean slate and allow new investors to come in knowing the club is not carrying any baggage."

"There are investors interested, but they would not come in under our previous structure."

"The meeting on Wednesday made changes to the constitution and paved the way for them to come in."

Di Sipio succeeded Don di Fabrizio at the helm of the Falcons but has been frequently criticised by club supporters for failing to use his own personal wealth to save the club's problems.

"What is the point of him being involved with the club if he won't dip his hand into his pocket when things are tough," a club insider told *Inside Soccer*.

"He has got the reputation of being mean and it looks like it is a deserved one."

"He certainly doesn't sit at the top of the board for any outstanding football knowledge."

"It is common knowledge with the players that when they travel they do so on a budget economy level – particularly when he is with them."

The stinging personal attack on Di Sipio comes as he has vowed to step aside to let the potential new investors come into the Falcons.

"The meeting on Wednesday changed the membership structure to introduce an executive made up of people who have business expertise

and are prepared to make a financial commitment," administrator Colin McDonald told the *Herald Sun*.

"My role is to maintain the status quo and deal with creditors."

"I'm basically putting out fires, but the fires appear to be minimal."

"The administration period is 28 days, but it can be extended."

"As yet I don't know the extent of the debts."

"Once I know that and the money I have to play with, I will look at arrangements that can be made with creditors."

Gippsland Falcons have admitted that it owes money to players, staff, fans and members as well as secured and unsecured creditors.

While the Falcons are looking to fight their way out of trouble their financial mess could be the easy excuse that Soccer Australia needs to make way for Parramatta which has pledged an immediate budget of \$5million.

And as expected the takeover of Newcastle Breakers has been completed with new owner David Hall set to tackle

SA on the issue of the \$250,000 franchise fee.

But with Carlton and Auckland having already been billed, he looks to have little chance.

Hall has stated his belief in the talent currently existing in the Newcastle area which might mean another lean period for local fans who were hoping that his arrival would see the club buy some top talent.

In Adelaide the situation has become even more confused after Adelaide Sharks shareholders rejected Peter Emery's bid and instead vowed to fight for their NSL status.

The South Australian Soccer Federation, meanwhile, is looking to continue its own bid for inclusion in the NSL.

Early last week a meeting of Sharks club members yesterday rejected the Peter Emery rescue deal which would have effectively seen their team dropped back into state league football.

The Adelaide United consortium led by Emery had offered a \$450,000 buy-out.

The deal had been accepted by the club's

creditors but was conditional on the Sharks withdrawing from the NSL so that a new entity, Adelaide United, could represent a broader section of the community.

The Sharks are also under the control of an administrator and their future looks just as bleak as it did two months ago.

The club will now look to solve its own financial plight and then apply for inclusion in next season's NSL.

Remarkably, there could now be three separate bids for one vacancy in Adelaide.

However, it is by no means certain that Soccer Australia will accept any of the bids and Adelaide could well be a one-team town next season.

Crowds at this year's matches, both at City and Sharks, have been disappointing, plummeting as low as one thousand on occasions.

Theo Parisos remains confident that the club can survive.

The Sharks president, who is a strong supporter of ousted coach Manfred Schaefer, says: "Members and the community have

responded powerfully to the club's needs.

"We have significant financial pledges which not only will bring the club back to members but also allow us to fund next season's Ericsson Cup."

"I can't tell you how much we have raised or how much we have been promised."

"But it's big money and we have some major sponsors ready to come in."

Parissos was originally involved in the Emery Adelaide United bid but has now pledged his support to the continuation of Adelaide Sharks.

And adding another surprise in the tail of the story, former major shareholder Con Makris is back in the picture, pledging support as a sponsor.

Makris, who hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons has already made cash donation to Adelaide Sharks.

Further progress on the situation is expected this week and Soccer Australia is likely to decide on the final format of the 1999/2000 league season by mid-June.

**PROUD
SPONSORS OF
SOUTH
MELBOURNE
SOCCER CLUB
AND
THE ROCKET
ACADEMY**

**YOU HAVE TRIED
THE REST, NOW
TRY THE BEST!**

**ROCKET ALKALINE
THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE**



**MAJOR
SPONSOR
YOUTH TEAM**

Rocket R Australia

75 PARKHURST DRIVE, KNOXFIELD, VICTORIA 3180, AUSTRALIA
PHONE 61 3 • 9801 0333 FAX 61 3 • 9801 0767

Aussies on the move in Europe

Andy Petterson has been handed a free transfer by Charlton Athletic ... Reading has awarded Steve Mautone a short-term contract until December to prove his form and fitness ... Notts County youngster Damien Beattie looks certain to return home after failing to win a contract extension with the Second Division Club ... Tynan Scope is likely to leave Coventry City despite showing good form in the reserves late this season.

The Crystal Palace pair of Craig Foster and Nick Rizzo have been transferred by the cash-strapped London Club.

Olyroo Mark Robertson has agreed to terms for another year with English Second Division side Burnley.

Ante Milicic has returned to NAC Breda's reserve side after completing a week's trial with Greek First Division Club OFI Crete.

John Filan has cleaned up the awards night at Ewood Park following a



Steve Mautone: the former Gippsland, South Melbourne and Cosmos keeper is under pressure at Reading

tremendous season between the sticks.

The 29 year-old won the Player-of-the-Year, the Disabled Supporters' Player-of-the-Year, and the Junior Rovers Player-of-the-Year.

Furthermore, Filan has committed his future to Blackburn despite their

relegation from the top flight.

And in reserves news from England ... Steve Corica played a full game as Wolverhampton Wanderers crashed 4-1 to Birmingham in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Michael Ferrante and

Richard Garcia were part of history midweek as West Ham United recorded the largest-ever victory in an FA Youth Cup final following their 6-0 thrashing of Coventry City in the 2nd Leg (9-0 on aggregate).

Western Australia's Garcia scored twice in

front of a capacity crowd at Upton Park.

Former Melbourne Knights striker Josip Bacak has been transferred by Dutch First Division Club Vitesse Arnhem.

25 year-old Bacak was recently on-trial with Anderlecht and has played just six senior games following the signing of a five-year contract in the 1996/1997 season, with his last appearance for the first XI being on October 23, 1996 against Roda JC.

19-year-old midfielder Shane Lyons has returned from a short stint at Coventry City to play in the ACT Premier League ... midfielder Lee Gillman has spent the 1998/99 season playing for Norwich City's Academy side ... and yet another lost Aussie has been found - he is 22 year-old former Melbourne Knights outfield player Arthur Tsirtsakis of Greek Second Division Club Ialisos Rhodes.

Villa bridge burned for Bosnich



Socceroo goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has reportedly rejected calls by his Aston Villa boss to reconsider staying with the club.

Aston Villa manager John Gregory has invited Bosnich to stay at the club just weeks after dropping him from playing in a match against Manchester United, English paper the News of the World said last Sunday.

Bosnich has been hotly tipped to take over from United's goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel next season.

But Bosnich said he was considering "all options" for his future, except staying at the English Premier League club.

"The manager hasn't spoken to me for three weeks so that particular bridge has been burned behind me," he said.

Bosnich said being dumped for the game against United had cast serious doubt on his professionalism and vowed he would never play for Aston Villa again.

FOR FIRST CLASS SMASH REPAIRS

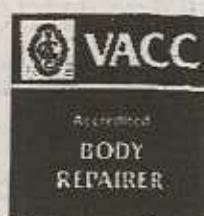
COBURG SUPER FINISH

**Specialising in
Late Model and Prestige Cars
COBURG SUPER FINISH**

142-144 Gaffney Street, North Coburg
VICTORIA 3058



Tel: 03 9354 4555 Fax: 03 9350 5210 Mobile: 0419 401
555 or 0418 415 555
ACN 007 346 321



*Proud Sponsors of
South Melbourne Soccer Club*

EMMAN'S WIREFWORKS

VICTORIAN MANUFACTURER OF
ADJUSTABLE
COOLROOM SHELVING

Specialising in

- Refrigeration Trays
- All Types Of Baskets
- Tubular Display Unites
- Counter Display Stands
- Plastic Coating

telephone: 03 9553 4585

381 WARRIGAL ROAD, CHELTENHAM, VIC

FAX 03 9553 4586



ANDREW YOUNG
& ASSOCIATES
Pty Ltd

For all your insurance, Investment and Finance needs

Andrew Young & Associates are once again proud to sponsor South Melbourne Soccer Club

*You will be pleased to know that for each member with a policy with AY&A the club will receive a rebate.
So now you can support the club and save money at the same time.*

SOME OF THE SERVICES:

- * Home and Contents * Motor Vehicles, Boats, Caravans
- * Travel Insurance * Commercial and Business Insurance
- * Professional Indemnity * Public Liability
- * Individual and Company Superannuation
- * Roll Overs and Bonds * Annuities and Allocated Pensions
- * Children and General Savings Plan
- * Income and Disability Protection * Life and Trauma Cover
- * Private Health Cover * Finance Domestic and Commercial
- * Leasing vehicles and Business Equipment

ANDREW YOUNG & ASSOCIATES Pty Ltd. A.C.N. 070 584 459
Level 1/337A Lennox Street (Cnr Swan Street), Richmond,
Victoria 3121

Phone: (03) 9429 7777 Fax: (03) 9429 1277

SOCCKET CITY

544 Princes Highway
Rockdale, NSW 2216

- * Soccer Specialist
- * Full Range of Club Gear
- * Manufacturers & Distributors
- * Suppliers of most Major Soccer Brands
- * We Carry Most Soccer Merchandise Available on the Market Today



SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF STOCK

PHONE: (02) 9567 5189

FAX: (02) 9567 5100

visit our website: www.soccercity.com.au



Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION



David Hill: should he cop the blame for the poor quality of this season's TV coverage of NSL soccer?

LIVE COVERAGE by television is a contentious point all over the world – and Australia is no different.

The two main points which are hot for debate are; * does the live coverage of soccer detract from attendance at matches? * is the package of full match coverage attractive to viewers?

The first point has a direct bearing on the immediate financial well-being of clubs while the second has a bearing on future viability.

There isn't much doubt that the live coverage by ABC this season has significantly affected attendances at NSL games.

In many cases clubs have lost as much as \$40-50,000 on match day earnings – per game.

With each club supposed to have been limited to two home matches that meant a likely loss of about \$80,000 per club.

Times that over the 15 clubs in the league and already the amount lost in direct gate takings tots up to about a million plus.

You could, of course, argue that the benefits brought to the game far outweigh the revenue lost.

You might even be able to argue that the exposure brought to those clubs'

sponsors, in terms of TV exposure of sponsor's names and ground signage is significant.

But I reckon if you took that argument to the average club you would lose, and lose by a major margin.

The truth is that exposure to club sponsors isn't worth a jot because it doesn't relate to increased revenue for those

clubs.

Already they are hard pressed, in the majority of cases, to bring in major sponsorship and I can't imagine too many of those companies willing to fork out their share of the lost \$80,000 just because they have had a few glimpses on Auntie.

Particularly with the ABC's well-known stance on com-

merciality and the attempts they make to reduce it at every opportunity.

Wherever possible they do not plug sponsor's names, they avoid shooting ground signage wherever possible and generally maintain a Corinthian-like stance on the game.

There is nothing wrong with a straight-down-the-line attitude and often I have felt that the game has become over-commercialised in recent years.

But tell that to a financial director who is responsible for balancing the books.

Instead of having a look-and-see at national TV coverage we have gone in boots and all and signed a mammoth deal which will tie us up for far too long.

That was all in the name of having commercial TV coverage.

But what we have got instead is third best, because that is what the ABC is.

Regardless of the truth that SBS coverage just doesn't extend far enough it is hard to argue with the level of coverage they have given the game.

Their commentary panels, love them or hate them, contain a fair bit of knowledge and profile.

This season I have been, with the rare exception of Peter Wilkins stint at the mike, been appalled by the banal

and trivial like commentary.

The constant resort to pre-written statistics is a sure sign that the commentary team doesn't have the goods.

And I'm not referring to Alan Hunter who I believe has done a pretty good job in his first season.

Likewise Robbie Wheatley does a polished job as sideline commentator.

I have sometimes felt, though, that he could have been given a more prominent role.

Steve Robilliard just isn't goo enough.

That, of course, is just a personal opinion.

As is my view that the ABC coverage has, on the whole, been lamentable.

But what isn't opinion is that major gaffes about starting and finishing were paled into insignificance when their 'live' coverage of Perth v Marconi lept forward by an hour for long enough to let all the viewers know what the likely final score would be.

Another total disaster.

The difference between Auntie and commercial is that on commercial TV someone would have either been fired or severely censured for that mistake – because the advertisers would have refused to pay.

The other point concerns whether our game is good

enough for a full live coverage of an entire match.

In fact, how many games anywhere in the world are worthy of a full ninety minute coverage?

Wouldn't the game have been better served with a highlights package plus snips from other games and then a panel show?

But does the ABC really care about what is good for the game, either present or future?

They are in the business of public broadcasting and might well argue, and with a degree of authority, that it isn't their responsibility to look after the interests of the sport of soccer.

That, they might argue, is the remit of Soccer Australia. You can hardly blame any of the present incumbents of office at Paddington for the current situation.

I know there will be a great deal of our readers who are going to groan, but the blame has to stop somewhere.

My personal opinion is that the TV deal is a lousy one. Channel 7 has shafted us royally by bumping us off to ABC.

The deal itself is too long and the clubs stand to lose a small fortune with lost receipts.

Advantages?

In the present format I can't really see many.

I don't suppose David Hill would have foreseen the possible outcome when he signed our game away.

But my honest opinion is that the ABC coverage is crap and so is the deal.

Well done, David.

1999

**W
I
N
T
E
R
R
A
N
G
E**

SOCcer BALLS

Match, Training & Recreational



ACCESSORIES

Bags & Pumps

GOALKEEPING

Gloves, Clothing & Accessories

SHIN PADS

Full range including new styles

INSTANT REWARDS

BUY TRAINING BALLS receive FREE match balls

FREE 1999 CATALOGUE

HEAD OFFICE: (02) 9557 5522

TOLL FREE: 1800 803 151

AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING SOCCER PUBLICATION

REAL MONDIAL - MATCH BALL

proudly supporting elite clubs and soccer development.

- Blacktown City Demons
- Parramatta Eagles
- Sunshine Georgies
- Heidelberg United
- Green Gully Cavaliers

THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

Solid back line gives Trimboli confidence

by Luke Bear

IN LAST season's Grand Final at Olympic Park South Melbourne played against first season club Carlton who had just finished second in the league. This season has been different for the Champions in at least the fact that Carlton are no longer contenders.

"That is one of the main differences between the season and last," agrees South skipper Paul Trimboli. "Last season every time we turned around we had to play them."

"We had Carlton in the last home and away leg then we played them in the Major semi final, both home and away, then we played them again in the Grand Final."

"This year it seems to be a similar situation with Sydney United."

"We played United in the second last home and away match and then in the two legged Major semi final - so that was a similar sort of routine."

South Melbourne have shown a lot of depth this sea-

son with class players like Jim Tsekenis and John Anastasiadis sitting on the bench for some of the season.

It has been one of the major factors in South's successful run to the Grand Final.

"That's for sure," agrees Trimboli.

"I think over the course of the 30 games we've had a lot of disruptions including injuries, suspensions and players leaving and going away."

"So I think if we didn't have that quality in cover then our performances would have suffered."

"Instead we've been able to keep a consistent level of performance."

"We've had to make a lot of changes and that's where those other players come in."

"You can't hope to achieve consistency if you don't have quality players in reserve."

"Another plus is that we have a lot of experience on the bench also."

Trimboli rates Sydney United as the other achiever in the NSL.

"They have obviously ex-

ceeded," he says.

"If you looked at them at the start of the season, had a look at their players' list and then all the problems which went along with their season they have done really well."

"They have had a great season and for them to win the League was an excellent result."

"Newcastle have also had a good season and they were actually in line for a finals spot right up until the last few games."

"There isn't any doubt that this is a testing time for South Melbourne."

"In the past we were the best supported club from the originals and although we are proud of that fact I don't know if we really pushed ourselves as a club."

"But Perth and Northern Spirit have shown that crowds of 15 thousand are achievable."

"A lot of people thought that wasn't realistic but Perth have now been doing that for three seasons so it isn't a short term thing."

"What Perth and Spirit are

doing is putting up a challenge to existing clubs, especially South Melbourne, to improve and get our crowds to match theirs."

Although Trimboli cites the need to reassess the position of traditional clubs South Melbourne have still maintained their own position in the top three of crowd pullers.

And they are undoubtedly the best supported away club with the potential to pull along thousands of supporters to vital away matches, even interstate.

"It is fantastic to get a travelling support," he says.

"One of the big problems in the NSL is the distance between cities. Unless you are playing a local derby you don't get two sets of supporters and when you do get rival supporters it certainly adds to the atmosphere."

"We have got a good core of supporters that are diehard and who follow us all over the country."

"They had a bearing on our result against Sydney United in the playoff game at Edensor Park although I think that the players really had the biggest bearing on the result."

"Against United we were confident."

"We knew if we stuck to our guns then we would get at least a draw and we knew that the advantage was with us because we had the result from the first leg."

"So we knew that some kind of a draw was going to be a positive result for us."

"Our backline has been playing well this season."

"We conceded the least amount of goals in the league this season and when you go into a game with that at the back of your mind you are pretty confident."

"So we knew if we kept things tight then it would probably go our way."



REGENTS PARK MOTOR BODY REPAIRS PTY LTD

VLASNIK: IVAN DEVCIC

Repairers for all Leading Insurance Companies



G.I.O. RECOMMENDED REPAIRER - N.R.M.A. CODE NO. 19169

SPECIALISING IN FLEET MAINTENANCE

- BAKED ENAMEL OVEN
- CAR BENCH
- COURTESY CARS AVAILABLE
- ALL WORK GUARANTEED
- ESTABLISHED OVER 30 YEARS

24 HOUR TOWING SERVICE

Mob: 018 020 265 Ph/Fax: (02) 644 2965

IVAN AH: (02) 874 5979

369-371 Park Road, REGENTS PARK, 2143



Lic. No: 44/001269/9

INSURANCE WORK
ALL MAJOR INSURANCE
COMPANIES CATERED FOR



Proud to sponsor
SYDNEY UNITED SOCCER CLUB
the 1998/99 NSL League Premiers

THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX**Mike gets butterflies while Ang keeps it low key in Grand Final build-up**

By Ted Simmons
and Paul Millar

SYDNEY United stand-in goalkeeper Mike Gibson continued to defy the odds as his team pushed for a grand final berth in the national soccer league.

The 36-year-old Gibson lined up on Sunday for the Ericsson Cup preliminary final against Perth Glory at neutral Marconi Stadium and played a significant part in his side's 2-1 win.

Gibson was signed at the start of the season as a specialist goalkeeping coach but also signed as a player in case his services were required.

Halfway in, he was back.

"The injury to Andrew Crews left a gap to fill and I just stepped in," Gibson said.

"I had intended to play for Penrith in the NSW State League but have stayed instead with



Angie Postecoglou

United and will still switch to Penrith once the national league is ended.

"It was not my intention to play for United but it has turned out to be a bonus because I've been doing all the work and this has kept me fit."

Gibson made one prior appearance in a Grand Final when he was custo-

dian for St George which beat Apia Leichhardt 4-0 in the 1987 grand final.

He conceded 33 goals in 28 matches this season, giving United the third best defence.

As Perth was the only team to post two wins over United this season, 3-2 and 4-3, Gibson was concerned at keeping the Glory at bay before the

big match.

"Perth have so many players who can turn a game. Most other clubs only have a couple who can be marked but Perth have so many who can make something out of nothing," he said.

But United was the side to turn on the style and in the end should have won far more convincingly than the 2-1 scoreline would reflect.

Gibson said he still gets nervous before a game but tries to focus the nervous energy so that it works for him.

"I still get butterflies. It's part of the adrenalin of playing at this level and there's no point in playing if you don't get worked up."

South Melbourne coach Ang Postecoglou always expected Sydney United to beat Perth Glory on Sunday and then face South in the Ericsson Cup Grand Final.

South took the direct

route to soccer's show-piece by beating United over two legs and now has the luxury of a healing fortnight before hosting the Grand Final at Olympic Park.

"I (always) thought Sydney United would be very tough to beat there (at Marconi Stadium)," Postecoglou said.

South's aim was always to secure the Grand Final in Melbourne and it's obvious why.

Postecoglou said his club had only lost about one game in 40 at its home ground, the last defeat was at the end of last season when it fell to Carlton.

However the result then was irrelevant as South had already won the league.

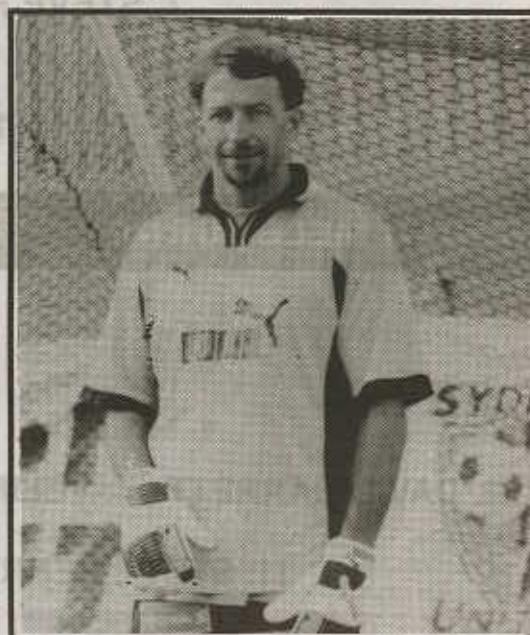
His biggest task over the next week will be keeping his players occupied.

"We've done it before, last season in fact, and we'll be keeping it low

key this week.

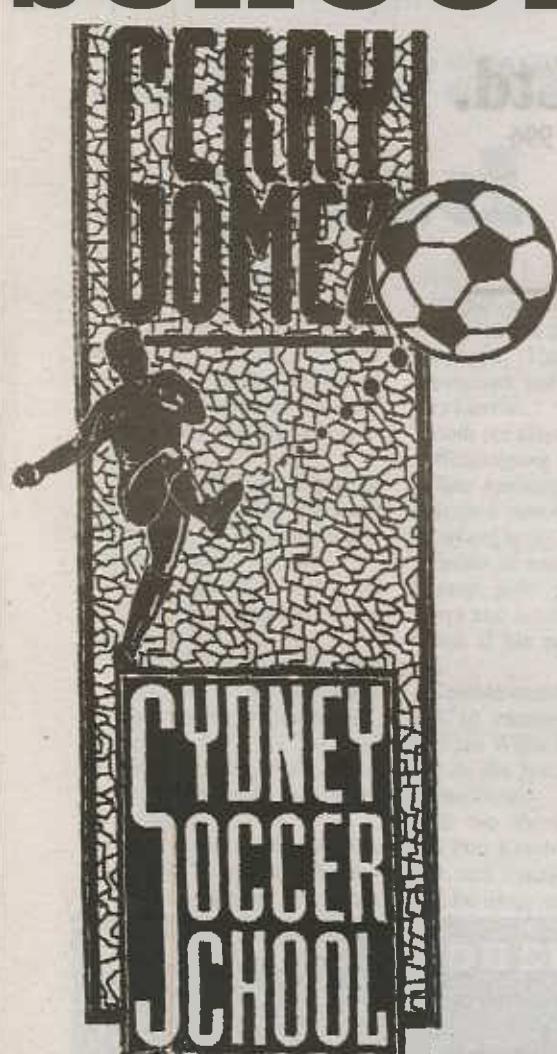
"In Grand Final week things take care of themselves as you're always busy and it is intense but this week we'll be taking it easy," Postecoglou said.

The break will also give star winger Goran Lozakovski time to recover from the calf injury which prevented him from playing against United.



Mike Gibson

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS COACHING CLINIC



CLINICS at BRISBANE

Park Ridge Panthers Soccer Club
(First week of holidays, Monday-Wednesday all day)
CURL CURL

John Fisher Park, Abbot Road, Curl Curl
(First week of holidays)

ROSE BAY SOCCER CAMP

Dangar Park, Manion Avenue, Rose Bay
(Last week of holidays)

ROCKDALE SOCCER CAMP

Barton Park

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE RING GERRY (0412 958 216) or LARA GOMEZ (0412 177 164) or on (02) 9310 5085 BH).
Fax 02 9344 5737 e-mail famgomez@accsoft.com

SPONSORED BY REAL, GEZ SPORTS – Specialists in transfer printing for soccer, netball, league, union and corporate, clubs and schools. No order too small

and **INSIDE SOCCER**

THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

1998/99 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL (30 May Olympic Park, Melbourne)

LIKELY LINE-UPS;

SOUTH MELBOURNE

1. MICHAEL PETKOVIC	3. FAUSTO DE AMICIS		
15. GORAN LOZANOVSKI	4. NICK ORLIC	2. STEVE IOSIFIDIS	5. CON BLATSIS
7. STEVE PANOPoulos		6. DAVID CLARKSON	
		9. PAUL TRIMBOLI	
10. MICHAEL CURCIJA		8. VAUGHAN COVENY	



COLOURS:
BLUE & WHITE SHIRTS
BLUE SHORTS
WHITE SOCKS

COACH:
Ange Postecoglou

THE LIKELY BENCH:
11. JOHN ANASTASIADIS
14. JASON POLAK
16. GEORGE GOUTZIOLIS
17. JIM TSEKINIS

SOUTH MELBOURNE

30. MIKE GIBSON			
5. RICHARD PLESA			
2. DAVID BARRETT	4. VELIMIR KUPRESAK	6. JOE VRKIC	17. MICHAEL SANTALAB
11. STEVE BERRY	7. JACOB BURNS	28. PETER BENNETT	
10. NATHAN DAY	9. MILE STERJOVSKI		

COLOURS:
RED & WHITE SHIRTS
WHITE SHORTS
WHITE SOCKS

COACH:
David Mitchell

THE LIKELY BENCH:
8. WALTER ARDONE
15. DANNY TOWNSEND
19. JOEL GRIFFITHS
25. ANTE MORIC
20. BARNEY SMITH



King Tomislav Croatian Club Ltd.

A.C.N. 001 190 996

223 - 227 EDENSOR ROAD, EDENSOR PARK, N.S.W 2176
Phone: (02) 610-6111 Fax: (02) 823-5495



PLAY CLUB KENO AT KING TOMISLAV CROATIAN CLUB LIMITED
AND THE NEXT MILLIONAIRE COULD BE YOU !!



PLAY BINGO EVERY TUESDAY MORNING
AND WEDNESDAY EVENING !!



RESTAURANT AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK
DINNER AVAILABLE - FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY



ALL FUNCTIONS BIG OR SMALL CATERED FOR



ENJOY A GAME OF BOCCE OR JUST
RELAX IN OUR GAMES ROOM



BASKETBALL COURTS ALSO
AVAILABLE 7 DAYS PER WEEK

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS



THE NEXT WINNER
COULD BE *you*

**DOBRO DOŠLI
U NAŠ
CLUB**

PROUD SPONSORS OF SYDNEY UNITED SOCCER CLUB

GRAND FINAL
30 May
SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
SYDNEY UNITED

PRELIMINARY FINAL
23 May
SYDNEY UNITED 2
PERTH GLORY 1

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
1st v 2nd
16 May

SYDNEY UNITED 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
2nd v 1st
9 May

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2

SYDNEY UNITED 1

SEMI FINAL
15 May
PERTH GLORY 1

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
4th v 5th
9 May

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
5th v 4th
30 April

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

QUARTER FINAL Second Leg
3rd v 6th
9 May

PERTH GLORY 2

ADELAIDE CITY 1

QUARTER FINAL First Leg
6th v 3rd
2 May

ADELAIDE CITY 0

PERTH GLORY 0

TO PLAYERS, COACH
AND COMMITTEE OF THE
SOUTH MELBOURNE
SOCCER CLUB
WISHING YOU THE BEST OF LUCK
IN YOUR QUEST
FOR BACK TO BACK
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
FOR THE 1998/99 SEASON

Nick and Pat Van Egmond
Staff and Players

at the

Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre



BAYSWATER INDOOR SOCCER CENTRE
Australia's Number 1 Centre
15 Burton Court, Bayswater, VICTORIA 3155

THE CROATIAN CLUB LTD.

WEDDINGS
PARTIES
CONFERENCES
FUNCTIONS

all catered for

*The Management & Staff
of the
Croatian Club Punchbowl would
like to congratulate
Sydney United
on an outstanding season*

Cnr. Canterbury & Punchbowl Roads,
Punchbowl, NSW
PH: (02) 9708 4699

THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

Glory message sounds a warning for the National Soccer League

By Paul Ruffini

A HANDFUL of true believers with little more than "a concept" and a few tables and chairs in a small Perth office have created an Australian soccer phenomenon in three years.

And, the ramifications of Perth Glory's success on and off the field could ultimately change the face of the game in Australia by forcing other clubs to loosen their traditional ethnic ties.

"We desperately need the rest of soccer to lift its game," said Glory general manager Roger Lefort. "We need them to progress before we can progress a great deal more."

The Glory roll has swept the West Australian capital for the past year, culminating at the WACA when 28,000 fanatical fans showed up for the 1-0 semi-final victory over Marconi.

There are no more home games for the ex-

uberant "Glory Boys" who packed the hill at Perth Oval this season, on average, 15,000 a game creating a boisterous, good-natured atmosphere compared to Anfield and Old Trafford 30 years ago.

Last Sunday for the Glory Boys and Girls, the real reason for the team's success, were sinking their pints in front of Perth television sets.

Glory's rise in a state obsessed with Australian Rules Football and cricket, but also with a near pathological determination to prove itself against the eastern states, has been a marketing triumph.

What the marketeers did doesn't sound startling, they simply established an Australian soccer club free of any ethnic ties. That in a state where 30 per cent of the population was born somewhere else.

"That was our objective from day one," said Jim Davies from 303 marketing consultancy.

"We were never intending to be an ethnic club.

At our literature, our name, our positioning has been as an Australian club. We haven't done the kangaroos and the wallabies and the didgeridoos stuff. We've just been contemporary Australian, not intending to overly endear ourselves to Australians, but being for everybody."

Glory also didn't want to alienate the migrant base from traditional soccer countries, they wanted a generic product for their supporters.

"Their only concern is for the one team that is on the park. They don't care whether Joe Bloggs standing next to him comes from Italy, Greece or England," Lefort said.

Former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill made enemies by forcing clubs to drop ethnic names and dropping emblems of overseas nations from their playing shirts.

Lefort said there's still a "long, long, long way to go" de-ethnicising the game.

But the bottom line; more money, more sponsors, better players a better coach and bigger crowds, the proof of the Glory strategy's success, is encouraging others.

Sydney's Northern Spirit is another club with no ethnic baggage already rivalling and overtaking Glory's success in a tougher market where it competes against rugby league, rugby union, the Sydney Swans and other soccer clubs.

South Melbourne, defending National Soccer League champion with a Greek support base, pre-sold only 100 tickets to its preliminary final two weeks ago, prompting an angry outburst from club president George Vasilopoulos.

"It's becoming more and more evident that it is becoming extremely difficult for us," he said.

"When they get more crowds they get more

publicity, bigger money, more sponsors and sooner or later they will attract the top players and coaches and win championships."

NSL general manager Stefan Kamasz recognises the difficulties established clubs will have in following Perth Glory, better marketing and promoting the game without alienating traditional supporters.

"I see a team like South Melbourne, provided they continue going beyond their current supporter base, as being able to participate on a long term basis," he said.

"But those clubs who are not prepared to bite the bullet are going to find it very difficult, and, you may well see that their life span in this league is not long".

Kamasz had another warning for the established clubs, saying many organisations with a lot of capital had contacted him about entering the NSL.

He had been approached about new teams for Parramatta, Brisbane, Adelaide and even a second Perth team.

"Things are quite healthy at the moment," he said.

The lesson the new clubs can take from the Glory is selling a sporting event and not just the game. Rides for children at the ground, rock music, dancers and reconfiguring Perth Oval, an AFL ground, to move fans closer to the action are all about the Glory experience.

If atmosphere can be deliberately constructed, the Glory has done it.

"From day one we set out to create a big club and to make it a big event," Davies said.

A charismatic high-profile European coach, Bernd Stange, who kisses policewomen after wins, big bad John Markovski, the flawed genius who no other club wanted, and, a 62-goal season, the

best scoring record in the league, also make the script near perfect.

Glory is privately owned with a three member board allowing it to make instant decisions without going through committee red tape.

Lefort refused to reveal Glory's financial position, but said any profits are re-invested back into the club.

Sunday's preliminary final against Sydney United was almost irrelevant, off the field the Glory knows it has already won.

"It's an inevitable fact of life that the most prosperous clubs will dominate in a sport where there is no salary cap or that sort of thing," Davies explained.

"Where does that leave the likes of the other clubs that live on the adrenalin of being part of their community, and not live on the real money of the world of soccer which we know is enormous".



WONDERLAND TRAVEL

TRAVEL TO CROATIA

WE OFFER ONLY THE BEST PRICES WITH THE BEST INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AIRLINES: QANTAS, LAUDA, LUFTHANSA, MALAYSIAN AND MANY MORE COMPANIES.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED PRICES FOR:

- ◆ Arrangements in domestic and international travel to Croatia or anywhere in the world
- ◆ Quality hotel accommodation as well as private apartments and houses
- ◆ Affordable car hire
- ◆ Ideal packages on any tours, cruises, skiing, rail and safari holidays for all ages

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR FOR ANY BOOKINGS CONTACT US DIRECT:

94 MAIN STREET, BLACKTOWN (02) 9622 7799 - Suzy
13 WARE STREET, FAIRFIELD (02) 9727 7177 Tanja

we are always there to help

SPORTS SCREEN SCREEN PRINTERS

*Proud Sponsors of
South Melbourne Soccer Club*

499 High Street, Prahran
PH: 03 9510 5522
Fax 03 9510 5419

EQUITY FINANCIAL SERVICES PTY LTD



EQUITY FINANCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

A negatively geared:

- 1) Share Portfolio
- 2) Investment Property

May be an attractive alternative for
high income earners following the budget

Our low interest loans can be used to create wealth

application forms and information available from:

Run Meretz & Peter Bunney
DIRECTOR'S

Equity Financial Services Australia P/L

23 Palmerston Crescent
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3205
Telephone: 03 9696 6555 Fax: 03 9696 6688

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST LUCK TO
SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB
IN THE 1999 NSL GRAND FINAL**

THE 1999 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE TOP SIX

There won't be any Day Dreaming for United's top striker

By Bruce Campbell
and agencies

SYDNEY UNITED striker Nathan Day wanted to prove his fitness with a winning performance for Sydney United in the national soccer league preliminary final against Perth Glory last Sunday.

The 25-year-old former West Adelaide front runner has had a slow year by his standards after a long lay-off to recover from injury.

Day has never played in an NSL Grand Final or even in a finals series although he was in the Campbelltown team which made the grand final in the 1994 South Australian premier league.

"That's the only time I've been in a big match atmosphere until now," Day said.

"I was looking forward to Sunday because it's only one step away from the Ericsson Cup Grand Final and everyone wanted to make sure we won that match."

"Although Perth has beaten us twice this season, if the games were analysed it would show not so much that Perth won but we lost."

"In the last round of the competition, they had four chances and scored four times while the ball wouldn't go in for us."

Day was regularly replaced by coach David Mitchell when he returned from an eight-month injury absence but played his first full 90 minutes in the first leg of the major semifinal against South Melbourne two weeks ago.

He was replaced in the second half of the return match but believes it was a tactical move by Mitchell and not a fitness problem.

Sydney United's finishing has been a concern this season but Day said they have always managed to come up with goals.

"We may have missed chances but our scoring is not too bad."

Against Perth Glory Day turned in a Man of the Match performance and is sure to be one of United's trump cards in Sunday's Grand Final.

The big striker with the trademark whiskers is good in the air, turns quickly and has a definite nose for goal.

He could well be the ace in coach David Mitchell's pack.



"There's not much difference between the sides but Perth has a group of danger players including Bobby Despotovski, Alistair Edwards and John Markovski," Day

said before the Preliminary Final.

"We had an opportunity to go direct to the Grand Final, we had another last weekend, we had a second

bite at the minor premiership.

"That's enough. Let's go out and win it," he added.

Only ninety minutes now stand between Nathan Day and his dream.

FINALS CUP (1977-1983)

not held 1977/81/83
1978 Sydney City 4 (Smith, Watson, Treter, Campbell)
Marconi 2 (Ollerton, Vieri)
Venue: Sydney

1979 1st Leg
Sydney City 1 (M Silva)
Brisbane City 0
Venue: Sydney
2nd Leg
Brisbane City 1 (Kelso)
Sydney City 1 (Treter)
Venue: Brisbane
* Sydney City won 2-1 on aggregate

1980 Heidelberg 4 (Cole 3, Paton)
Sydney City 0
Venue: Bruce Stadium, Canberra
1982 St George 3 (Marton - 3)
Sydney City 1 (Kosmina)
Venue: Penrith

GRAND FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP (from 1984)

1984 1st Leg
South Melbourne 2 (Egan)
Sydney Olympic 1 (Koussas)
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 10,011
2nd Leg
Sydney Olympic 1 (Theodorakopoulos)
South Melbourne 2 (Crino, Yzendoorn)
Venue: St George Stadium, Sydney
Att: 11,221
* South Melbourne won 4-2 on aggregate

1985 1st Leg
Sydney City 0
Brunswick 1 (Incantalupo)
Venue: St George Stadium, Sydney
Att: 2,491
2nd Leg
Brunswick 1 (Incantalupo)
Sydney City 0
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 7,560

1986 1st Leg
Adelaide City 0
Sydney Olympic 1 (Spyridakos)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
Att: 12,232
2nd Leg

Sydney Olympic 1 (Johnstone)
Adelaide City 3 (Melta pen, Villani, Maxwell)
Venue: Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
Att: 14,032

1987 St George 4
Apia 0
Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Att: 6,961 #Not Championship Decider
1988 Marconi 2 (Calderan, Nastevski)
Sydney United 2 (Hunter, Lamond)
Marconi won 5-4 in a penalty shoot out after extra time.
Venue: Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
Att: 17,064

1989 Marconi 1 (Nastevski)
Sydney Olympic 0
Venue: Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
Att: 23,387

1990 Marconi 0
Sydney Olympic 2 (Edwards, Ironside)
Venue: Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
Att: 26,352* Marston Medal: Abbas Saad
1991 South Melbourne 1 (Palatsides)
Melbourne Knights 1
South Melbourne won 5-4 in a penalty shoot out after extra time
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 23,318 Marston Medal: Joe Biskic

1992 Adelaide City 0
Melbourne Knights 0
Adelaide won 4-2 in a penalty shoot out after extra time.
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 15,463 Marston Medal: Alex Tobin

1993 Marconi 1 (Harper pen)
Adelaide City 0
Venue: Parramatta Stadium, Sydney
Att: 13,376 Marston Medal: Milan Ivanovic
1994 Adelaide City 1 (Mori)
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 13,970 Marston Medal: Alex Tobin
1995 Melbourne Knights 2 (Marth, Spiteri)
Adelaide City 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
Att: 15,573* Marston Medal: Steve Horvat

1996 Melbourne Knights 2 (Marth, A Cervinski)
Marconi Fairfield 1 (Harper)
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 14,258 Marston Medal: Andrew Marth

1997 Brisbane Strikers 2 (Farina, Brown)
Sydney United 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Att: 40,446* # Marston Medal: Alan Hunter
1998 South Melbourne 2 (Anastasiadis, Boutsianis)
Carlton 1 (Stergiopoulos)
Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
Att: 15,706 Marston Medal: Fausto de Amicis

* Ground record for soccer
New Australian all-time attendance record

ROCHEDALE ROVERS SOCCER CLUB

From humble roots to NSL aspiration

IN NOVEMBER 1972 local resident Tommy Vance advertised for anyone interested in forming a soccer club.

Right from the start local businesses came forward, including the late Graham Hogg of Graham Hogg Real estate, Brian Fitzibbon of the Glen Hotel and John Beerling from Galeprufe Garages.

Within a few years Rochedale Rovers had secured land at Underwood Park, de-

veloped three fields (fenced and floodlit) and built a canteen, office and showers.

Many different people contributed the countless hours of volunteer work, without doubt one of the reasons why Rochedale Rovers has become the club it is today.

Since those early days thousands of families have enjoyed the atmosphere and facilities and have in turn helped to make them bigger and better

UNDERWOOD PARK has also hosted many tournaments at both State and National level.

And from time to time international teams have also used the Rochedale Rovers facility for training.

Additionally, the Rovers outstanding facility has been used by schools, representative team training and for coaching clinics and courses



The dining room with an outlook onto the Underwood Park playing pitch

so that today that early idea of a few local supporters has become a thriving industry.

Today the club employs nearly 50 people both full and part time.

Rochedale Rovers has a fully air-conditioned family

bistro, a function room that will cater for 160 people and overlooks the main playing field and a smaller conference room holding up to 80 people.

The clubhouse is open seven days a week, complete with poker machines, Keno, mini

TAB and live entertainment on weekends.

The soccer side of the club has grown just as furiously.

Beneath the grandstand are some of the best facilities in Queensland; four large size changing rooms, showers,

offices, sports store and canteen.

Like many state league clubs Rochedale Rovers have ambitions of NSL membership and have left no stone unturned in becoming one of Queensland's best clubs.

It's time to escape to North Stradbroke Island!



Just 90 minutes from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, you find North Stradbroke Island - a natural haven of sparkling surf beaches, freshwater lakes & fantastic views.

Straddie offers lots of fun activities including 4WD safaris, fishing, diving, snorkelling & sandboarding. The island has everything from camping to luxury resorts, so something's sure to suit you.

Water Taxi: Luxury high speed catamarans with 11 scheduled trips daily. Courtesy catches from Cleveland rail to ferry terminal.

Vehicular Ferry: 11 trips daily, extra services weekend & holidays. Cars, coaches & commercial vehicles. Bookings essential.

WHALE WATCHING FROM JUNE TO NOVEMBER

Bookings & Enquiries
07 3286 2666

Strabroke Ferries will show you the way!

Proud sponsors of
Rochedale Rovers Soccer Club

ROCHEDALE ROVERS SOCCER CLUB LTD.

Board of Directors

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Director of Senior Soccer
Director of Junior Soccer
Director of Marketing
Director In-House

Mr Owen Dunn
Mr Barry Fowler
Mr Arthur Moore
Mr John Young
Mr Peter Walklate
Mrs Sue Wake
Mr David Beardman
Mr Rod Shaw

Coaching Staff

Senior Coach
Assistant Coach
Reserves Coach
Youth Coach
Goalkeeper Coach
Director of Junior Coaching
Junior Goalkeepers
Flexibility Coach
Under 9-10 Coordinator
Under 5-8 Coordinator
Club Physiotherapist

Mr Peter Bannon
Mr Ken Armstrong
Mr Rado Vidovic
Mr Tim Brown
Mr Graham Ross
Mr Brian MacNicol
Mr Sam Castorina
Mr Raymond Amaya
Mr Koz Varfis
Mr Kieran Cooper
Mr Simon Bassingthwaite

Football Admin Officer

Mr Kieran Cooper

attack
S P O R T S

ESTABLISHED 1973
Australian Made

Licensed Supplier to the Queensland Soccer Federation for over 13 years
MANUFACTURERS OF TEAM SPORTSWEAR including

Soccer, Hockey, Basketball, Touch & Netball
LARGE RANGE OF
Playing Shirts, Shorts, Tracksuits etc.

ATTACK SPORTS are pleased to support ROCHEDALE ROVERS

INSIDE SOCCER SUPPLEMENT

ROCHEDALE ROVERS SOCCER CLUB



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

UNDERWOOD PARK is located approximately 20 minutes south of Brisbane and 20 minutes from the Gold Coast, making it a prime location for any overseas visitors.

Suitable accommodation, indoor training facilities, Olympic size swimming pool and gymnasium are all in close proximity to the ground which has seen many international team visitors in recent years including Australia, Colombia, New Zealand, Norway and South Korea.

Hunting for that elusive Premiership

ROCHEDALE Rovers currently field seven senior teams, three of these playing in the Queensland Soccer federation's Premier league - the elite level in Queensland state league soccer.

Over the last ten years Rochedale have been one of the most successful clubs in Queensland, being involved in the finals series in all but one year.

Honours include two Queensland Cups, two Grand Final championships, two pre-season Cups.

The only senior trophy which has eluded the Rovers is the Queensland Premier

League Premiership.

At the time of going to press with this article the Rovers had just been knocked off top spot by Brisbane Lions.

The club also fields two women's teams playing in Division 1 and Division 5 and a girls under 16 squad is currently being formed which is hoped to be in place by the start of the new season.

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

- 1 Graham Ross*
- 2 Dwayne Good
- 3 Ross Davidson
- 4 Michael Lane*
- 5 Damian Harris*
- 6 Alan Evans*

- 7 Steve Fitzsimmons
- 8 Michael Legg
- 9 Kieran Cooper*
- 10 Clayton Koch*
- 11 Nick Alidenes
- 12 David Pilic
- 13 Brad Ditton*
- 14 Mark Luburich
- 15 Greg Anderson
- 16 Matt Olley
- 17 Gary Brattan*
- 18 Andy Monement
- 20 Todd Rumble

NOTE: Players marked * have represented Queensland at senior representative level while Alan Evans has played for New Zealand at full International level.

Rochedale Juniors

THE ROVERS have close to 700 registered junior players (both boys and girls). Children start at age 5 and can progress right through to senior level.

Professional coaches led by Senior Coach Peter Bannon and Junior Director of Coaching Brian MacNicol ensure that all coaching staff are well equipped to carry out club policies.

Rochedale players who have progressed to national team level include Olyroos Kasey Wehrman and Jade North as well as Australian Youth team goalkeeper Michael Turnbull.

Not everybody reaches those heights and Rochedale Royers are proud to accommodate all levels of playing ability.

MEDALS - PLAQUES - SHIELDS - HONOUR BOARDS
Excel
TROPHIES
SLACKS CREEK

Ph: 3808 6799
3209 2564

Fax: 3808 6744

Everything for
**SPORTING * CORPORATE
SCHOOLS * SERVICE CLUBS
SOCIAL CLUBS * GENERAL AWARDS**

*Large Range
All With Money Back
Guarantee*

*Proud to be Associated with
Rochedale Rovers*

SCREENPRINTING - RIBBONS - SASHES - PENNANTS - BANNERS

COMPANY LOGOS - COMPUTER CUT VINYL LETTERING - DESIGN LAYOUTS

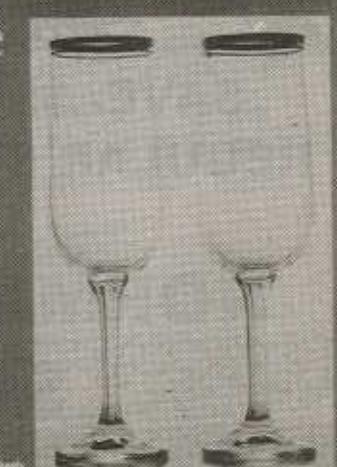
PRONOTIONAL PRODUCTS - GIFT WARE - SILVERWARE - PEWTER - CERAMICS

If you are over 18 and work full-time

These 2 Exquisite
Wedding Flutes
could be yours

FREE!

*Perfect to toast your future together.
A treasured memory of your Special Day.*



IN QUEENSLAND ONLY

178 Logan Road, BURANDA, QUEENSLAND 4102

TEL: 07 3891 5699

GROUP TRAINING AUSTRALIA BRISBANE

APPRENTICES FOR HIRE

WE'VE GOT THEM ALL

BENEFITS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- ◆ We have excellent apprentices/trainees available now
- ◆ 1 week to 4 years, to suit YOUR needs
- ◆ We indenture apprentice/trainee
- ◆ No industrial relations headaches
- ◆ One simple hourly charge
- ◆ No paperwork and no hassles
- ◆ This is a chance for us all to help pass on skills to our Australian Tradespeople of the future and to allow your business to expand.

We cover over 36 trades, call now on 3841-5879

SUPPORTED BY OVER 2,000 LOCAL BUSINESSES

Group Training Australia Brisbane is proud to sponsor
Rochedale Rovers Soccer Club



SUPPLIERS OF



hamilton materials, inc.
Premium Hamiltons Compounds
Concord Tools
Sur walker Stilts
& All Plaster Accessories

Pro Plaster Products proudly support
Junior Soccer at Rochedale Rovers

Australian Soccer's NUMBER ONE PUBLICATION



**SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ WITH A
REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION**

**NORMAL PRICE
\$125**

NOW PAY ONLY
\$88

- * outselling all its rivals, including imported magazines
- * providing the only weekly coverage exclusive to the Australian game
- * giving the biggest and best NSL coverage in Australia
- * giving a comprehensive wrap-up of major state league events
- * in your local newsagent every Tuesday (except Monday Bank Holiday weeks when distribution is Wednesday)

**WITH A MONEY-BACK
AND FULLY
CANCELLABLE
SUBSCRIPTION OFFER
IF YOU ARE NOT
TOTALLY SATISFIED**

Payment should be sent to:
Duntroon Publishing
Suites 4/5,
108 Railway Street
Corrimo
NSW 2518

Please make cheques payable to Duntroon Publishing

Name
Address
..... P/code

Subscription @ 52 issues at
SPECIAL OFFER PRICE OF
\$88

Brown names Matildas squad for Women's World Cup

By Ted Simmons

LONG-serving striker Julie Murray (pictured) will lead Australia in the third FIFA Women's World Cup finals in the United States next month.

Murray, who captained Australia in the last Cup finals, has represented Australia 57 times with Anissa Tann-Darby the only player ahead of her with 67 caps.

National coach Greg Brown has named a squad of 20 to travel to the United States, including nine members of the team which finished last at the 1995 World Cup finals.

"I'm really happy the players are fit and ready to go to the World Cup," Brown said.

"They have been playing well, are excited by the tournament and I believe they are capable of doing very well."



Australia is currently ranked eighth after a series of victories in the past 18 months at international level.

The team defeated Olympic silver medallist China, beat European heavyweights Sweden and Italy and had a winning tour of North Korea.

In the World Cup preliminary round, Australia has been drawn against China, Sweden and Ghana and Brown said the

MATILDAS coach Greg Brown has named a squad which bears a strong resemblance to that which flopped so badly in the Algarve Cup last March.

Out go Sonia Gegenhuber, Shelley Youman, Kim Revell (who has been named in the Under 21 squad) and goalkeeper Joanne Butland who was Australia's hero in the penalty shoot-out win over Sweden which allowed Brown's side to grab some face with a fifth placing.

In come six other players as the squad is increased to 20 members: Dianne Alagich, Tracey Wheeler, Kristyn Swaffer, Amy Taylor, Alison Forman and Amy Wilson.

With the Sydney Olympics, and the hope of a medal placing, looming large Brown is under increasing pressure to do well at the World Cup. To keep their dream alive the Matildas must at least be a contender for a semi final placing.

Anything less will be totally unacceptable given the huge amount of government funds poured into the full time women's programme over the last few years.

players would be confident after their earlier successes.

The team will leave on May 31 for four warm-up games against the United States, Bra-

zil and Canada before meeting Ghana in the opening Cup match on June 20.

Brown has also selected a group of younger players with the Sydney Olympics in view to gain experience at top level.

Among them are 17-year-old school students Peta-Claire Hepperlin, Kelly Golebiowski and Alicia Ferguson as well as Amy Wilson (18) and Dianne Alagich (20).

Hepperlin, from the ACT, has only played twice for Australia and is the youngest member of the squad while Alagich has five caps and Wilson seven.

Over 7.4 million girls and women play soccer in the USA and they and their families have been targeted for ticket sales at discounted prices.

To boost interest an exhibition game was staged in February between the USA and a team of world All Stars.

From that point on the USA has played a series of exhibition games at venues around the country against Mexico, China, Japan and Holland.

Record crowds will watch the women's World Cup

by Randal Charlton in USA

OVER 50,000 fans will watch Denmark take on host nation USA in the opening game of the 1999 Women's World Cup. Over 45,000 will crowd into Soldier Field, Chicago to see USA take on African champions Nigeria and at least 30,000 will watch mystery team North Korea try to overcome the host nation.

Altogether at least 350,000 fans will watch the 32 games of the World Cup finals, which will make it the biggest single women's sporting event in history.

World Cup officials made these confident predictions as they counted advance ticket sales. However, World Cup Committee president Marla Messing believes the actual attendance figures could well top 500,000 with the opening day and final game both sell-outs.

Over 77,000 fans can be accommodated in the cavernous Giants Stadium and there is room for 92,000 in the Rose Bowl where the final will be played.

The host nation, or neighbours Mexico, would almost certainly have to make the final for the Rose Bowl, in Los Angeles to be filled but whoever appears on final day, overall record attendances are a certainty.

The total attendance for the last Women's World Cup held in Sweden in 1995 was 212,000.

The Final of the 1996 Olympic women's soccer tournament in 1996 convinced the marketing experts that women's soccer could attract major audiences.

A capacity crowd of 76,000 fans watched USA beat China at Athens, Georgia and the public response to that game had a major impact on the organisation of this World Cup.

The organisers booked some of the biggest stadiums in the country and mounted a massive marketing campaign over a year before the event.

Over 7.4 million girls and women play soccer in the USA and they and their families have been targeted for ticket sales at discounted prices.

To boost interest an exhibition game was staged in February between the USA and a team of world All Stars.

From that point on the USA has played a series of exhibition games at venues around the country against Mexico, China, Japan and Holland.

WEST AUSTRALIAN BIG MATCH UPDATE

Brother Shaun misses out on Murphy's Law at Sorrento

BY Jason Marocchi

STRIKERS in the west weren't the only ones shaking in their boots when Sorrento announced Shaun Murphy (pictured) would make a couple of guest appearances for the club during his four week Perth holiday.

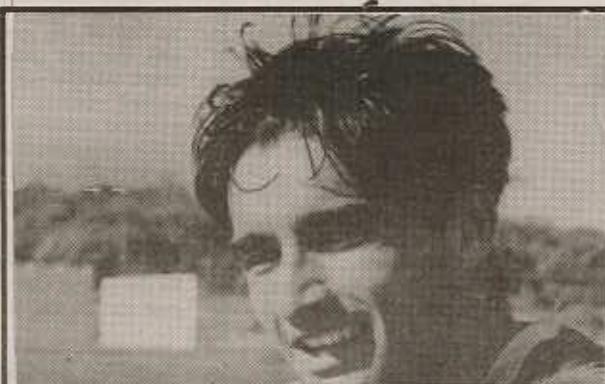
Sorrento's young defender Kevin Murphy was also not pleased about big brother running around in the sky blue of Sorrento.

"He'd take my spot in the side," Kevin says which brings a laugh from Shaun.

"He plays the same position as me and it would have meant watching him from the bench."

Fortunately for Kevin, Shaun won't be lining up for Sorrento during his stay in Perth.

Under the Bosman ruling, if Shaun runs on the park for Sorrento he will have to wait for a year to be able to go back and sign a contract in England.



Coast Premier League.

"There's a good standard over here now," Shaun says.

"A lot of young players could make it overseas."

And he recommends the move to any young aspiring player, including brother Kevin.

"He is probably a little too young at the moment but I would like to see him experience playing overseas," Shaun says.

Kevin, 18, isn't thinking that far ahead.

"I just made the Sorrento first team squad this year and would like to establish myself here first," he says. "Then I wouldn't mind going over."

Knights go top in WA

by Jason Marocchi

DEFENDING champion Western Knights took the outright lead in the Soccer West Coast Premier League with a 3-0 victory over the Inglewood Falcons on the weekend. Two goals from Eugene Singorzan and one from former Glory midfielder Paul McVittie set up the win.

The Knights go to the top of the table after Sorrento could only manage a 2-2 draw at home to Ashfield-Bunbury.

Sorrento now slip two points behind the Knights and face a tough away fixture with Fremantle City on Saturday, who will be looking to avenge last Wednesday night's embarrassing 6-2 loss to Sorrento in the West Ham Cup.

The Knights meet the dangerous Ashfield-Bunbury, before the big clash with Sorrento in a weeks time.

At Macedonia Park, the Stirring Lions made it a week to remember, thrashing King-Swallow Olympic 5-0.

New signing Zoran Mlinar scored twice, with Keegan Ashley, Dean Nicolaou and an own goal finishing off the rout.

The win follows Wednesday night's amazing 3-2 golden goal victory over the Western Knights, in the quarter finals of the West Ham Cup.

There were more goals at the Limits Stadium, with Floret Athena and Fremantle City producing a thrilling 3-3 draw.

Floret's Abdul Kamara scored one of the goals of the season, chipping the Fremantle goalkeeper from 40 metres out. Hugh Miller and Peter Coci got the others for Floret, while Michael Mirco scored twice and Robin Dyers once for Fremantle.

At Bayswater Oval, Graham Normanton won his first point as coach of Perth, in a 1-1 draw with the Bayswater City Panthers. Nick Mrda's first half strike for Bayswater was cancelled out by Andreas Oliveira's late equaliser.

INSIDE SOCCER

Australia's weekly soccer Bible
OUT EVERY TUESDAY from coast to coast

ACT BIG MATCH UPDATE

Macor the menace

by Nick Guoth

THE University of Canberra were their own worst enemy in their match against Monaro at Riverside Stadium.

The defence found all too many different ways to give the ball away and Monaro capitalised on this with Danny Macor being the most significant benefactor.

In fact, Macor had a hand in all of Monaro's goals. Monaro won the game 5-2, but leading 4-0 at the break meant the game was all but over and one could see the players move into cruise mode.

The writing was on the wall early when Uni keeper Chris Freeman was needed to pull off two one-on-one saves, both from the feet of Macor. Then in the ninth minute a corner from Joe Campagna came out to Brent Chick. His shot became a pass when Macor intercepted, turned and placed the ball to secure his hat-trick.

The Uni dressing room was not a place for the calm and collected and the obvious tirade worked wonders.

Just under 30 seconds had gone when Foxhill was able to beat his de-

fender near the corner and sent a ball to the far post for Bartone to finish.

At the quarter of the hour mark the ball fell to Macor on the side of the box. He managed to turn his defender and put in a pin-point cross for Jimmy Baxter to head home.

Laz Simeonov found himself in exactly the same position just prior to half-hour mark. He also turned his defender

but this time sent a pass to Macor who with plenty of time picked his spot to make it three.

It wasn't until just past the half-hour mark that Uni had their first threatening shot at goal. A Simon Foxhill cross found Dominic Bartone and his header went agonisingly wide.

In the last 5 minutes of the half, substitute Nick Behr proved himself as the saviour when twice he kicked the ball off the line with the keeper beaten.

The first denied Simeonov and the second Macor. Meanwhile in between these two bouts of heroics, a corner kick from Campagna came out to Brent Chick. His shot became a pass when Macor intercepted, turned and placed the ball to secure his hat-trick.

The Uni dressing room was not a place for the calm and collected and the obvious tirade worked wonders.

Monaro coach Andrew Monterosso was happy with the result. "In the first half we were excellent, but we took it a bit easy in the second."

"John Nelson had an excellent game as did Darryl North. Brent

Chick, an up and coming player, also did very well" Monterosso stated.

Rod Lynes said his team were just not learning from their mistakes. "Our defence was all over the place in the first 15 minutes", he said.

THERE was a hard fought game at Majura Oval between two struggling teams, Gungahlin Juventus and the Burns Club.

Alan Rankine on as subs saw their defence much tighter.

They started to generate more chances. A Bartone low shot went directly at Foxhill who from 5m out and in front of the keeper tried to backheel the ball in but missed completely.

Then a scramble in front of goal saw three clear-cut chances go to waste with either the keeper in the way or someone clearing off the line.

Five minutes left and another substitute, Damon Toivonen, raced down the left desperately trying to gain control of the ball. He fooled a defender and with his last touch sent a low cross for Bartone who with some time brought the ball down and scored from 15m out.

Monaro coach Andrew Monterosso was happy with the result. "In the first half we were excellent, but we took it a bit easy in the second."

"John Nelson had an excellent game as did Darryl North. Brent

Juventus came out 2-1 winners, but Burns will feel disappointed after they could not hold onto a 1-0 lead which they carried until there were only 20 minutes remaining.

Sean Madden had put them ahead and all was looking good for their second win of the season, until the defence fell into disarray and allowed Juventus to take the points.

Juventus should have scored in the first half, but for a penalty that wasn't converted. In those dying 20 minutes, George Cattanach and Yosip Zamora were the scorers for Juventus, but they missed a number of other opportunities that could have been put away.

No one really stood out for either team as both teams battled en-masse, although Niall Stoddart had a good game.

IN THE battle between the third and fourth placed teams, Weston Creek Royals came out in front 4-2 winners over

Capital City Suns at O'Connor Oval.

The scoreline flattered the Suns as it wasn't until late in the game that they scored their two and only after Weston had substituted two of their defenders.

The Suns came out well in the opening 15 minutes, but after that Weston began to dominate. Peter Hader scored the first when he challenged for a header with keeper Tony Giannasca, knocking the loose ball home.

A cross from the right hand side saw a mistake from the Suns defence that allowed Steve Lazari to score.

Lazzari potted the third and set up the fourth when he sent a near post ball for Hami Adhami to tap in.

Capital City Suns pegged two back, one from Frank Giorgi and the other by youngster Pat Phommaseisy.

Weston coach Jimmy Bland was pleased with his team's handsome performance. "We worked extremely hard, especially in defence", said Bland. "Our players have listened and learnt well".

HAWKER Oval saw the clash of the two teams that at the beginning of the season were expected to fight out the championship, Belconnen United and Canberra Olympic.

Olympic, seen as the favourites prior to the

season's commencement, are now in deep trouble after they succumbed to an injury-time winner from Ray Junna.

The first half saw both teams struggling hard to gain ascendancy. Belconnen took charge of their right-hand side and allowed Olympic to look after the other side.

Marko Perinovic had a couple of good chances, but the nearest he came saw him head the ball wide. At the other end, Olympic should have gone ahead when Danny Raad beat Jason Dunn and was solo with Rade Kosanovic.

IN ACT Women's Soccer action the two undefeated teams in first division have their records still intact reports Anya Whitelaw.

ACT Academy of Sport drew 2-2 with Belconnen United at Calwell on Sunday. Both teams were unable to convert their chances until the 21st minute when ACTAS defender Teneille Bray bought Clorinda Iannucci down inside the box. Dior Foxhill stepped up to take the shot and although keeper Amy Beattie moved in the right direction, Belconnen took a 1-0 lead. The ACTAS side faded into the break, but Belconnen was unable to capitalise on this. A half-time plea by ACTAS coach Ian Murray for his players to lift was heard, his team going into the second half all guns blazing.

Kim Channing was unlucky not to score when she intercepted a backpass to Belconnen's keeper and again three minutes later when she sent the ball just over the crossbar. Belconnen then hit back, scoring a goal totally against the flow of play. A Corbett ball intended as a cross beat a diving keeper to go into the back of the net.

Two goals down and Channing finally broke through for ACTAS, leaving three defenders in her wake before slotting the ball past the keeper. ACTAS continued to pressure Belconnen without success, until eight minutes out from fulltime when they were awarded controversial free kick. Channing took the kick from just outside the box, clearing the wall to tie the scores at 2-2. The scores remained this way until fulltime, ACT Women's Soccer Association President Heather Reid thrilled with the standard of play: "It was great to see this standard of high play from players who will be the future of the Association."

In other games Burns-Brindabella defeated Weston Creek 1-0 and Tuggeranong had 3-0 upset over City.

Rade was able to deflect the shot and fortunately for Belconnen, Junna was on hand to clear off the line.

The second half settled down with rare chances falling to either team, and then with the game appearing to fade to a scoreless draw, a corner from Scott Manson bounced off the crossbar for Junna to head in.

Bels coach Lino Fiorese said: "we contained them well today and defended better. Still the chances need to be put away otherwise we are putting pressure on ourselves".

Queanbeyan's woes continue

by Greg Welsh

GOALS either side of half-time by Cosmos recruit Danny Burt proved not enough for Queanbeyan City, as Canberra Deakin gave the ACT Premier League strugglers a 6-2 thumping at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

Speculation before the game centred on how the Deakin side would respond to the mid-week sacking of coach Ian Shaw, but the team quickly put these fears to bed with four unanswered goals inside the first half-an-hour.

Deakin's Paul Ivanic had his second-minute strike touched over the bar by the Queanbeyan keeper, but wasn't to be denied three minutes later after good

lead-up work by Ben Deighan and David Milin.

Daniel Jukic collected Deakin's second in the 16th minute by following in Deighan's explosive free-kick which Vidovic was unable to gather. Just four minutes later, Gaby Exposito sent Zoran Talevski into the Queanbeyan penalty area.

Despite losing his footing, the striker managed to scoop the ball off the ground and into the net from close range. Another six minutes passed before an inswinging corner by Anthony Rakic deflected off Burt into his own net, and it seemed Queanbeyan's humiliation was complete.

However, the Queanbeyan sweeper restored some pride for the visitors with a headed goal six minutes before the

break, and threatened an improbable comeback 11 minutes into the second-half with a shot that deflected past Deakin keeper Pedro Pavez.

But his weary team-mates were unable to follow Burt's example, and the Deakin midfield of Exposito, Milin and Rakic ripped City to shreds in the remaining thirty minutes.

Second-half substitute Anthony Barac scored one of the easiest goals he's ever likely to get after Rakic's left-foot cross found him unmarked at the back post, and Milin completed the rout 11 minutes from full-time when his left foot shot somehow found its way through the arms of Vidovic into the City net.

Deakin co-coach Bernie Lustica was happy with his team's effort. "We asked them to go out there and give a little bit extra to what they've been giving in the past couple of weeks," he said.

"They certainly did it. Four goals in twenty-five minutes was just enough to kill the opposition."

While admitting that further improvement is still needed, Lustica said the result was a good one given the circumstances.

"When you get in front it's very hard to keep that momentum going," he said. "They did that. They showed me today that it doesn't matter who coaches, they're willing to play for the club, and that's the way it should be. Zoran [Glavinic] and I are very happy."

Indoor squads named for NZ tour

GIRLS squad:

Sheena Stubbs, Carisa Hoban (Terrigal High School), Nicole Rickard (Marist Sisters Woolwich), Emily Brandjes, Danielle Rogers (Colo High School), Linda Capizzi (Nowra High School), Lorissa Stevens, Tara Herring (Mount View High School), Kara Mouyar (Cheltenham High School), Leagh Follington (Hawkesbury High School).

COACH: Mike Corringham. MANAGER: Jeni Fisk

BOYS squad:

Brendan Bradshaw, Jason Donnelly (The Entrance High School), Toby Napper, Tim Brown, Chris Nagle (Shoalhaven High School), Michael Champion (Clare Catholic High School), Andrew Fitzsimon (Lisarow High School), Lee Maslen, Ashley Diable (Colo High School), Simon Wood (Mount View High School).

COACH: Tim Genzo. MANAGER: Therese Kershaw



INDOOR SOCCER (FIVE A SIDE) ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W. Inc.

WINTER COMPETITIONS NOW RUNNING

ALL THESE ISA CENTRES ARE AFFILIATED WITH SOCCER NSW
CONTACT A CENTRE NEAR YOU

SYDNEY			
Parklea	9894 1425	Minto	9824 5435
Bonnyrigg	9610 1137	North Ryde	9876 1619
Hornsby	9477 1074	Riverstone	9627 5148
Kellyville	9629 1518	Rockdale	9556 3386
Leumeah	4626 1700	Rooty Hill	9832 0567
Lidcombe	9654 2311	Windsor	4577 5931
COUNTRY			
Coniston	4229 4901	Oak Flats	4256 4515
Gosford	4325 0107	Shoalhaven	4448 6091
Newcastle	4954 5305	Terrigal	4977 1350
Nth Wollongong	4226 2820	Ulladulla	4455 2281

For further information contact the
Manager ISA NSW on 9629 1800 or 0414 430 047

White Eagles scrape United draw

by Bruce Campbell

WOLLONGONG White Eagles might have looked forward to a bright 1999 season in the Illawarra Credit Union Premier League.

But the prophets of doom and gloom were already afoot even as they unexpectedly toppled Port Kembla in last season's Grand Final.

Given the boot by an ungrateful landlord at Herb Clunies Park after transforming it into a neat and compact sporting venue they were forced to move to Brandon Park after failing to find an alternative venue.

The subsequent suspension from the league for alleged breach of the rules saw the club and ISA in court.

But a double drubbing of the league's executive – they lost both in the Supreme Court and at a NSWSF Tribunal – saw the club back on the field.

"We didn't even bother to have a pre-season function," says club stalwart, Michael Prodanovic.

"What was the point, we didn't even know if we would

have a club."

"Our season has really been ruined but the legal part of it isn't over yet.

"We have submitted a claim for our legal costs and are now taking advice on how much we should seek in damages compensation."

And on Saturday at Brandon Park you could have been forgiven for thinking their season would continue in its depressing mode when they faced joint competition leaders Northern United.

They had even lost star player Richard Machado after an ISA tribunal found him guilty of a charge of bringing the game into disrepute and suspended him for six games.

Had the referee included the striking charge in his match report then the player could have been outed for just two weeks.

Little doubt then that club supporters feel that Kangaroo Court justice is prevailing, outraged at what they see as a lack of fair play.

A total of nine players out because of suspension, injury or availability saw them list only two players on the bench

for the match with Northern.

One was a sixteen-year-old and the other was the club's 38-year-old coach..

Northern United, who started without star striker Jamie Closs, who is said to be in dispute with the Corrima club, had all of the play in the first half.

Playing some dazzling, swift passing football they did everything right – except score.

"We had plenty of possession in the first half," said coach Phil Carr after the game.

"But we just couldn't break them down."

In the second half I changed tactics to a more direct style, getting the players to run at them."

But even that had no effect as Northern blew a series of goal scoring opportunities with shots which shaved the bar, scraped past the upright or were just well off target.

Michael Gardiner should have scored late on in the game when he found himself in open space with the ball at his feet but his shot sailed over the bar.

Peter O'Neill also had his

opportunities but with a mixture of bad luck, atrocious finishing and some stuffy defence the game finished 0-0.

Sixteen-year-old Nicholas Pupovic got on for the last few minutes but the White Eagles youngster didn't have an opportunity to show any of his skill in what was only his second club appearance.

But coach Dragan Kisacjinin, pitched in because of the club's dire player availability, showed some of the touches which made him a professional player in Yugoslav First Division football.

Even at 38 he had the ability to hold the ball up and in one terrific move split the normally sound United defence with a slashing pass.

But the usually sound Northern defence was rarely troubled and Stuart Glass and Rod Hill made sure that keeper Adrian Thompson didn't have a single save to make.

Just before the end of the match, proceedings sparked to life when referee Mario Mastroianni, who had a superb match, sent off two players after an on-field scuffle.

Coach Carr was far from

happy in the dressing room after the draw which cost his side a chance to take a clear lead at the top of the table.

"Yes, I'm very disappointed," he said.

"We had enough chances to win easily and there was only ever one team in it."

"But we didn't take our

chances and that is what it's all about."

Wollongong White Eagles have now gone two games with a clean sheet and perhaps the joy expressed at that unconvincing statistic is evidence of just how much their club fortunes have plummeted this season.

Clare slams five

WOLLONGONG weren't the only Illawarra club to be affected by the contentious ruling affecting non ISA registered players. Port Kembla's Michael Clare was forced to miss two weeks after transferring back to the club – and he only moved down the road from Wollongong Wolves.

The highly talented member of the Wolves NSL youth side was only on the field for seconds when he got Port Kembla's first minute opener against Fernhill at Towradgi.

Clare then went on to notch up a total of five as Port Kembla steamrollered Fernhill 7-0.

Club officials confirmed that Clare had been stood down by the ISA while they "sought clarification on the rule".

Last week White Eagles officials demanded the resignation of several ISA directors after they had successfully overturned their suspension at a NSWSF Tribunal.

It is certain that the issue is far from finished despite the refusal of the ISA board in accepting the resignations of directors Norman Flanagan, Alan Walton and Robert Fryer.

Facing a huge legal costs and damages bill it could well be that the whole board will ultimately resign.

Meanwhile Port Kembla have re-affirmed that they are still in contention for honours and now sit just outside the Top 4.

Carr to name Illawarra squad

by Bruce Campbell

ILLAWARRA representative coach Phil Carr will name his squad this week for the annual challenge match with the ACT on the Queen's Birthday Monday holiday.

"I'll send the names into the ISA first and then they will release the details after checking availability," he said.

"But things have been a bit of a problem because of the local situation.

"I haven't been able to name a squad and we are obviously not going to be well prepared.

"I would have liked to have included Lupcho Naumovski and Mineo Bonetig but neither is available."

Both players are outstanding and would have normally been automatic starters in Carr's

side.

He has a welcome difficulty in choosing a goalkeeper from Northern United's Adrian Thompson and Port Kembla's Ben Harris.

Both are class keepers.

Wollongong Olympics' gun-striker Anthony Guido should also be a strong contender for a starting spot.

Guido is reputed to be the highest paid player in Illawarra and it would be a major shock if his name was omitted.

Kemblawarra's David Cuda had an excellent season last year for White Eagles and was one of the best players in the Grand Final.

He too should be included and Port Kembla's Matt Callahan and Frank Barila would also be likely contenders.

PORT CHASE ROBERTS

PORT Kembla have stepped up their bid to re-sign their former midfield star, Paul Roberts.

Roberts was rated the best player for NSL side Canberra Cosmos.

Port Kembla coach Adrian Alston is anxious to re-sign his last season star but knows that he faces formidable opposition.

"Roberts is looking to go overseas," says Alston, "but I am still hopeful we will get him at least for a spell."

Steve Krishna (Olympic), Claude Cellini (Olympic), Rodney Hill, Stuart Glass (Northern United) and Rod Patterson (Bulli) are all contenders for a place in what is going to be a very difficult job for Carr given the circumstances.

In Canberra, ACT coach Ian Heywood has no such problems.

The former Cosmos assistant coach has had his squad in training for several months and he is confident of doing well.

"It is the highlight of the year for us," he says, "and all the players are looking forward to the trip."

"At this time of the year it gets a bit cold in Canberra so it makes a pleasant change coming down to the coast. The squad is looking good and I've got two former NSL players available for selection in Gus Cerro and Jason Dunn. They add a touch of class to the team and I think we'll do alright."

Former Port Kembla striker Joe Campagna is a possible inclusion in the ACT line-up. The nippy former NSL player has been playing with Monaro in the Canberra Premier League.



ILLAWARRA
Credit Union
leading the way

www.cu.com.au



ILLAWARRA CREDIT UNION PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 9

Friday 28 May

Cringila Lions v Port Kembla

Crehan Park

Saturday 29 May

Kemblawarra v Fernhill

Albert Butler Memorial Park

Northern United v Woonona

Memorial Park

Bulli v Wollongong White Eagles

Ball's Paddock

Sunday 30 May

Coniston Lions v Wollongong Olympic

JJ Kelly Park

Shoalhaven City v Lysaghts

Ison Park, South Nowra

MATCH OF
THE
ROUND

Parramatta embarrass hapless Canterbury

By Patrick Galloway.

MELITA stadium was the venue last Sunday afternoon for the much-anticipated clash between Canterbury-Marrickville and Parramatta in round 17 of the NSW Super League, with both teams in need of three vitally important competition points.

Over the past two weeks, Canterbury Marrickville have conceded an amazing 12 goals, whilst scoring none.

Quite an incredible figure when one realises that Berries keeper Steve Tolios had only seen 18 go past him after 16 matches in the NSW Super League, some two rounds ago.

A demolishing 7 - 0 defeat against Blacktown played a large part in this statistic.

Parramatta's formidable home record is quite tough for any team to overcome, and with keeper Jason Holmes in outstanding form, undoubtedly the Melita faithful would have been relatively confident of a victory.

From the outset it appeared as though the match would be a tight one, with Canterbury-Marrickville looking strongly towards their new signing - Fijian International Esala Masi, to combine well with Nick Boevski up front.

However, the Berries line up had also been weakened with Adrian Molochino in the grandstand due to his dismissal last start against Blacktown.

Sweeper Jose Mendez was also out of action through suspension, after receiving his sixth yellow card.

Surprisingly, it was the referee who stole the limelight in the first period, issuing no less than four yellow cards in a space of 20 minutes.

To Diomis' credit however, he was consistent.

The first real chance of the match fell to Canterbury, after some nifty work inside the area by Nick Boevski, receiving and then dribbling the ball around Parramatta keeper Jason Holmes in what was somewhat of a goal-mouth scramble after receiving a clever through ball from Esala Masi.

Boevski blasted the ball goalwards only to see it rebound off defender Mark Reveley and then into the path of Canterbury's Simon Fedele, who let go with a lethal shot just outside the box which skimmed the crossbar.

Parramatta replied in the 35th minute after a Hawthornthwaite run from midfield saw him track into the Berries backline without a marker.

Sasha Utjesenovic cleverly played the ball to him from wide on the right.

Hawthornthwaite controlled the ball and then scooted past Canterbury sweeper Terry Palapanis, and with a left foot poke, put the ball low and to the left of Steve Tolios, who up until that point, had not yet been called upon to make a save in the match.

Just five minutes later Canterbury's hopes of blemishing Parramatta's fine home record were put to sleep when young striker Adam Anderson was on hand to slot home a relatively easy opportunity after some enterpris-

ing work by Grant Bard in the box.

Bard skilfully held the ball up and then laid the ball off to Anderson who was free to guide the ball home, past a frustrated Steve Tolios.

The scoreline became a little more embarrassing for the Berries in the final quarter of an hour, with Adam Anderson picking up his second in the 75th and then Grant Bard converting a penalty in stoppage time for a 5 - 0 end result after a lazy tackle from Canterbury's second half sweeper Matt Percy.

THE top two both won again in Super League

round 17 action.

Leaders Blacktown City Demons had a tough game against the improving Leichhardt Tigers, but came away with a 1-0 away victory courtesy of a Jon Angelucci goal.

The Tigers had favourite son John Buonavoglia back at the club after playing for Newcastle Breakers, but he was unable to inspire his team to grab an equaliser.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles keep on winning as well, although for an hour we were looking at the shock result of the season in Super League as lowly Sutherland Sharks led through Craig Hobbs' 44th minute strike.

In the end though, Bonnyrigg ran out 5-1 winners, new signing Joe Bruni and Javier Mancino grabbing two each and Ben Green one.

Macarthur Rams remain in third but they appear to be struggling.

Their latest defeat came at the hands of Bankstown City Lions, who defeated the Rams 2-1 at Jensen Park.

The Lions scored through Dimoski and Mendo Lozevski, while the Rams only goal was an own goal.

The Tigers are in fourth

and Bankstown move into fifth, so Fairfield dropped down to sixth after being surprisingly held at home by bottom club Eastern Suburbs.

The Bulls missed a host of chances and had only a 15th minute penalty to

Mark Hoenselaars to show for their efforts. Mark Beldham, who scored his second goal in two games

to make it a final score of

1-1, dashed any hopes of that being enough.

The day's other game saw Ryde City claim its second win in two games and more clear of the bottom three, after defeating the Central Coast 3-2.

Aydin Cetinay was the hero for the Gunners, netting two of his team's three goals.



Fairfield's prolific scorer Mark Hoenselaars

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 18

Sunday 30th May

Blacktown City Demons v Ryde City Gunners

Gabbie Stadium, 3:00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Central Coast

Serbian Centre, 3:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Bankstown City Lions

Seymour Shaw Field, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Parramatta Eagles

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Canterbury Marrickville

Lambert Park, 3:00pm

Tuesday 1st June

Central Coast v Sutherland Sharks

Plum Park, 7:30pm (Round 13 re-arranged game)

Proudly sponsored by PEPSI

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION INFORMATION SERVICE

19009 22885

(75c per min - IDS. Higher rates applies from mobile and public phones)

NSWSF STATE LEAGUE ROUND-UP

by Paul Goodwin

IN FIRST Division the top two clubs were both beaten, Manly Warringah surrendering their unbeaten record at Rockdale where the Suns grabbed a last minute winner from Spase Nadjoski after Goce Trposki had cancelled out an early headed goal from Danny Barbalace.

St George meanwhile lost valuable ground when a hungrier Stanmore Hawks beat them 1-0 at Arlington Oval, a tap in by Malcolm Adams in the 9th minute being the difference between the sides at the finish.

A C United lost 3-1 at Auburn, but they had led from a Rod Toomey goal only for Auburn to score twice in stoppage time, the first from the spot after the A C keeper had

been sent off, as the scores had been level to that point. Illawarra Lions and Moorebank had a tight contest at Kembla Grange, the home side prevailing 2-1.

Second Division leaders Hajduk Wanderers

dropped a couple of points at home to Arncliffe to stay one point ahead of Saturday's losers Fraser Park, a late Steve Josevski goal earning the visitors a point after J J Ellul had scored early on for Hajduk.

In other games Hurstville ZSC beat Sydney District 6-0 and Greystanes overcame Uni of NSW 2-0 and Hills United and Mount Pritchard played a 2-2 draw at Fred Caterson Reserve Castle Hill.

Blues named squad

The New South Wales Soccer Federation has named a strong squad for the re-arranged ANZAC Cup game against Northern New South Wales to be played on Saturday May 29.

The game was originally washed out on ANZAC Day, but the game will now go ahead on Saturday at Jack McLaughlin Oval.

Kick off is 3:00pm, with the ANZAC Shield

clash between the women's teams kicking off at 1:00pm.

The squad selected by former Socceroo defender Doug Utjesenovic contains just one change to the original squad, Canterbury's Jim Nikas being unavailable, so his place is taken by Parramatta's Ahmed Elrich.

The full squad is: Alex Trposki, Richard Lukic (Bankstown), Borislava Dragas, Paul Richardson,

Robert Gomez (Bonnyrigg), Peter Preston (Central Coast), Frank Mikuletic, Tom Bazdaric (Leichhardt), Matthew Lowe, Jason Bennett (Blacktown), Ahmed Elrich (Parramatta), Matthew Borg (Fairfield), John Crawley, Dion Valle, David Reid, Kain Rastall, Trevor Whiddett (Macarthur Rams), Craig Sharpley (Ryde). Coach - Doug Utjesenovic.



Caught.
Ball watching!

The official ball supplier to:



Australian Distributors: Australia's Power Brands Pty Ltd, PO Box 876, Rosebery, NSW 2018.

Telephone: (02) 9669 5800. Facsimile: (02) 9669 5933.

OTTIE ABONYI - AN AUSSIE LEGEND : Part 6

GREG STOCK concludes his in-depth interview with OTTIE ABONI, one of the fastest players to ever pull on a green and gold shirt - and one of the best.

GS: Are you talking about the ethnic side of the game?

AA: "Well that might come into it too. And of course there's a lot of bickering and in my opinion the game never took the right direction.

"There was too many politics involved in the game.

"I mean back in '74 they said, right from now on soccer is going to kick on - and it just died.

"It just died for the next ten years till something else came along.

"We had a lot of interest shown and a lot of publicity for the first time, good coverage and certain people, I am not going to name names but certain people let it all fade away again with politics and bickering.

"Somebody didn't

like somebody or somebody else instead of thinking about the game itself.

"And there was always a lot of personal conflicts and a lot of personal interests that play in front of more important issues.

"That I found at club levels too.

"If you're a wealthy guy and you didn't know nothing about the game it didn't matter who you were the president.

"Only because you had the money not because you were interested in the game or you had some knowledge of the game or you had passion for the game.

"It was because you were well off and that to me is not the way.

"I can say that after twenty years, I have been out of it for nine years now since I've been in Coffs.

"My last years at St George, I went back as Frank's (Arok) assistant at St George in '88 and '89 so I have been through quite a few clubs and I have seen unfortunately the way it's run and you're right, with the ethnic problems too."

GS: You were player coach at Croatia and you finished there in.....

AA: "'79 as a player coach."

GS: And then where did you go from there?

AA: "Melita.

"I gave away playing and by this time I was thirty three.

"I thought I have had enough and I just now concentrated on purely coaching rather than player coach."

GS: Did you have a lot of success as a coach?

AA: "Well I was at Croatia for three years and player coach for the last two years '78 and '79.

"We won the minor premiership in both those years.

"Then I went to Melita in '80 which was my first year as just a coach not a player.

"We won the minor premiership (but) we lost the grand final.

"So that was three out of three if you like.

"And from there I was offered a full time job at a little club called Riverwood you might remember in the state league.

"That was a case of a lot of things coming together at the time.

"I was working for a sports store in Liverpool with this guy Steven Smith the cricketer and that particular store folded, the company folded, All Round Sports.

"The company folded completely so I lost my job like he (Steven Smith) did and everybody else did.

"And just at that time, honestly I think it might have even been that same week at the end of the '80 season at Melita.

"I mean brilliant, we won the league we won the grand final everything was going well and a brilliant little club, absolutely brilliant club to work for.

"Nice people, good facilities out at Parramatta somewhere there and I had no intention of leaving.

"But Riverwood came along, they used to be called Arncliffe Scots but it was that year that they changed to Riverwood and they offered me a full time job.

"I mean I couldn't believe it.

"I was the only full



Ottie Abonyi with Parliamentarian Al Grassby

time coach in the state league back in those days (laughing).

"So how could you knock it back.

"So I took that on for two years as coach."

"The first year we finished seventh I think and the second we finished runners up to Croatia in fact."

"In fact, I think that was their (Croatia) last year in state league before they went up into the

NSL.

"So we finished second to them on goal difference.

"And I left them and was offered a job in Canberra in '83 in the national league with Canberra City."

GS: Did you have much success down there?

AA: "Well I was only there for one year.

"They offered me a two year contract but I didn't

take it because I still had a house and family in Sydney.

"I moved to Canberra by myself purely to take on this full time coaching job.

"But I couldn't move my family my house and so forth so I said I'll see what happens after one year.

"And when the year was up I think we ended up finishing seventh on the table and there were

fourteen teams in the NSL so halfway.

"It was quite enjoyable, quite good, a fairly successful year.

"They offered me a two year contract.

"Then it was a case of what do I do.

"Do I sell up and move to Canberra or what.

"And that was the year in fact that Croatia came back into the NSL, '84 was going to be their first year in the NSL.



THE CONCLUSION

"So they rang me up while I was still in Canberra (and said) would I be interested in taking Croatia again?

"So I thought what an opportunity - I can come back to Sydney and continue full time coaching.

"I wouldn't have to sell or move.

"So a lot of things happened and I came back and took on Croatia in '84.

"And they sacked me (laughing).

"Typical, halfway through the season we lost a few games on the trot and bang.

"Typical soccer.

"I mean I said to them at the start of the season that here we are playing in the NSL.

"We're going to be playing against teams like St George, Hakoah, APIA who are really established and brilliant teams and they have already been in the NSL since 1977, eight years in the NSL.

"You step up from state league into it.

"(They said) Croatia must finish up the top.

"I said, you're crazy or what."

GS: Too high an expectation?

AA: "I said this will take three years or four years to catch up to these clubs.

"I virtually took on that team with a pure state league squad (with) unknown players.

"Don't get me wrong, they were good players but they were just like Barnsley in the Premier League.

"First year, poor Barnsley, bottom of the table.

"Lucky if you survive.

"If you don't get relegated you're doing well.

"Next year you do a little bit better and again.

"So I said to them it will take time and they said we cannot wait this long what about our supporters.

"And I said well stuff you, let the supporters do the job if that's your attitude.

"So I took it on and of course we lost a couple of games and they sacked me.

"But that's soccer, of course.

"Who is to go first - it's always the coach isn't it?

"So I left it and then I started to be a bit I don't know.

"It's not because I got the bullet, don't get me wrong, it's part of the game but when you give up playing it's never the same.

"Once you stop playing believe me it's not the same.

"Your passion goes, coaching is alright but it's not like being a player.

"And I started to be a bit sceptical (and) about the game, the people running the clubs.

"Because when you are a player you don't give a stuff what the committee says or what they do or what they think (because) you're playing.

"But when you're involved as a coach you go to these meetings, committee meetings and some of the shit anyway I don't want to bore you.

"So that's what happened and the I thought that's it I want a break from soccer for a full year completely."

"So that's when I started working for AMP as a rep selling life insurance.

"Again Mike Johnson got me the job there and I thought I am not going to do anything for a full year.

"And then in '85 Rockdale Ilinden rang me up.

"Would you coach the team? - so I ended up going there.

"Probably one of the silliest mistakes but again I wanted to do it.

"By this time I had a year off and I was starting to

GS: Get itchy feet?

AA: "Yeah itchy feet and I just wanted to be involved and I went along to their little practice ground out at Rockdale.

"So I was there and one thing led to another and Frank Arok got in touch with me and said how would you like to come back to St George.

"And magic, back to my love.

"So in '87 and '88 I was back at St George assisting Frank in the national league.

"So that's basically how I finished up."

GS: And from there St George went out of the National League?

AA: Well I left at the end of '88."

GS: And then you moved to Coffs Harbour.

AA: "That's right.

"I went to see Frank at the end of the year and I said we decided to move up north and I am leaving.

"And that was the end of my soccer days."

GS: And you're enjoying

your soccer retirement up there?

AA: "I love it.

"Lifestyle is absolutely perfect, it's what we like and I'm now involved in things like golf.

"I'm now a bloody golf fanatic for the last four years."

GS: Golf is a bit like an addiction sometimes.

AA: "It is, very much so.

"Well I decided I'm 51 now so I thought when I come up here I want to do things I have never had the chance to do.

"When you're working and playing soccer, training three or four nights per week plus every weekend you've got no time for anything else.

"So I thought once I come up here the lifestyle is entirely different.

"I mean the first year I was up here would you believe I ended up playing soccer for a little club called Sawtell up here."

GS: You actually played?

AA: "I actually played.

"It was nine years ago so I would have been forty two.

"Things like that and

club for two years, North Coffs, and then he was director of coaching up here for about three years and last year he just packed it up completely.

"Again, politics.

"Certain guys didn't want him in the job."

GS: They used to call him Sabrina because he was like a ballet dancer with the ball?

AA: "Yeah, Sabrina that's right.

"Unbelievable, the Little Professor.

"I've got his book too called the Little Professor."

GS: Has he signed it for you?

AA: "Oh yeah, he did of course.

"He wouldn't be more than seven minutes in the car from my place to his place.

"So I see quite a bit of him and his wife.

"We've been there for a barbecue, they come to our place occasionally and we get on real well."

GS: So who would have been the best player you played with?

You can pick a few.

AA: "To play with I'd have to mention Johnny Warren of course.

"For again a lot of reasons, his leadership of course, his skills and ability, but more so his leadership and determina-

tion and he possessed so much skill.

"It's a pity that all his life he was a right full-back which I thought was probably the wrong position for him.

"He just had so much skill that he would have been a better player say playing as a midfielder.

"Very creative, very skilful, read the game perfectly and we had brilliant understanding so I enjoyed playing with him more than anybody else, actually playing with him.

"Those two would have to stand out in my mind and Adrian Alston up front.

"Probably those three I would have to mention."

GS: What about the hardest defender?

AA: "Stan Ackerley without a doubt, the bastard (laughing).

"I'll never forget when I was playing in Melbourne as a young lad of sixteen or seventeen he played for a club called Slavia.

"I'll never forget the first game I actually

back and I was right wing and a skinny little boy at seventeen year old.

"He said these exact words - I am gonna' break your leg before this day is out.

"Just then I sh*t myself but that was a put-off of course, but he was by far the hardest defender I've faced.

"But they are all hard, let's face it.

"As a forward you find every defender hard."

GS: Coaches - Frank Arok the best you have played under?

AA: "Yes by far."

GS: Even better than Rale Rasic? I guess its like comparing chalk and cheese

AA: "I wouldn't say by a mile, but Frank and Rale those two in particular.

"I've had quite a few over the years, but yeah Frank and Rale.

"Those two would have to stand out more than anybody else."

GS: Do you have any regrets on your career at all?

"And I honestly don't think anybody could.

"It sounds silly and a lot of people sort of look at me and say that's not right.

"But people will always say that once they've made it.

"Have you noticed that.

"It's always when a guy makes the Australian team in any sport he says, oh one day I had a dream that one day I might like to play for Australia.

"But you never hear a

guy who never made it say, geez one day I want to play for Australia.

"That's what fascinates me.

"I just think it's not possible.

"I think if you love the game and you're good enough and you work hard enough you'll get the benefits out of it.

"You'll play for Australia but you can't actually dream about it.

"I just don't believe its possible.

"Even Bobby Charlton said the same thing.

"I've got a video where he's actually talking about that.

"He said maybe I should never have even been picked for England.

"Now fancy him saying it, he played for England one hundred and six times.

"But he said 'I was dead lucky to have been picked for England. All I wanted to do was play for Man United' and he said all of a sudden I got picked for England.

"I don't know whether I deserved it or not.

"Now fancy him saying that.

"And he's the only guy I've ever heard that said exactly what I always thought."



The great Leo Baumgartner

"Well the reason for that is certain guys found out that I was moving up here.

"Leo Baumgartner was already here for a full year before I moved up."

GS: Is he still coaching up there?

AA: "No, but he was.

"He actually coached a

he's a mate of mine.

"Incredible.

"If you had to ask me who in you're opinion (was) the best player to play in this country or import if you like (it's Leo Baumgartner).

"But Leo, I have seen him play and he was unbelievable."

"He's a mate of mine.

"An example to all of us as a player, I mean he was just a 110% player.

"So it's a combination of a number of things.

"Another guy would be Doug Utjesenovic the

right fullback (for St

George and Australia)

because him and I had

brilliant understandings

played against him I didn't even know who the hell he was.

"(We were) playing at Port Melbourne, I don't remember what year it was I'd have to think about it, (but) he said to me even before the game kicked off when we were lining up, he just looked at me, he was left full-

AA: "Oh no, not at all.

"No, I am very, very grateful and very lucky at the same time.

"You know how you hear players saying ever since I was a kid I dreamed of playing for Australia.

"To me that's such bullshit.

"Now again that might

surprise you.

"I mean when I started playing soccer I only thought about the next Saturday's game.

"If you get selected to play for your club side at first grade level or New South Wales or Victoria it's an extra added bonus.

"You're not going to think about it from the age of ten.

"You know I never thought I'd play for Australia, that was never my ambition.

"My ambition was to be a good player end of story.

"If you are good enough or lucky enough to get picked it was unbelievable but I never thought at the age of ten one day I'd like to play for Australia.

"But people will always say that once they've made it.

"Have you noticed that.

"It's always when a guy makes the Australian team in any sport he says, oh one day I had a dream that one day I might like to play for Australia.

"But you never hear a

guy who never made it say, geez one day I want to play for Australia.

"That's what fascinates me.

"I just think it's not possible.

"I think if you love the game and you're good enough and you work hard enough you'll get the benefits out of it.

"You'll play for Australia but you can't actually dream about it.

"I just don't believe its possible.

"Even Bobby Charlton said the same thing.

"I've got a video where he's actually talking about that.

"He said maybe I should never have even been picked for England.

"Now fancy him saying it, he played for England one hundred and six times.

"But he said 'I was dead lucky to have been picked for England. All I wanted to do was play for Man United' and he said all of a sudden I got picked for England.

"I don't know whether I deserved it or not.

"Now fancy him saying that.

"And he's the only guy I've ever heard that said exactly what I always thought."

ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Dusty gets Golden Goal

By Roy Hay

ADELAIDE City beat Carlton by a golden goal scored by Dusty McGregor in the second period of extra-time after the teams had been locked at nil-all at the end of normal time in the Inter-Divisional Play-off in Adelaide on Sunday.

Carlton had much of the play, but could not break through on the heavy pitch.

For Carlton, Serdar Pir, Steve Martin and Marko Iacobaccia were the best on the day.

National Youth League:
Inter-Divisional Play-off
Sunday 23 May 1999
Adelaide City 1 Carlton 0
(Dusty McGregor)
(Score at full time, 0-0, McGregor's goal was a golden goal in the second period of extra-time)

Northern Division
Grand Final
Sunday 23 May 1999
Sydney Olympic 0 AIS 0
(After extra-time, AIS won 3-2 on penalty kicks)

Forthcoming match
National Play-off
Sunday 30 May 1999

game.

Adelaide City will now go on to meet the AIS in the National Play-off next week, possibly as the curtain raiser to the Ericsson Cup Grand Final at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

Jim Bakis and Nick Carle came very close to scoring, but when these chances were missed it was down to the penalty shoot out.

Jim Kourtis saved the first AIS kick.

Michael Turnbull, who had been outstanding in goal during the game for the AIS, then saved three penalty kicks to see his team through as Wayne Shroj, Ljubo Milicevic and finally Elias Dimourtzidis converted their kicks for the AIS.

Olympic had the upper hand in the last few minutes of the



Jimmy Kourtis: the Olympic keeper had a fine game but the AIS got through on penalties and will now meet Adelaide City in Sunday's Grand Final.

TRADITION & TECHNOLOGY

Every football pitch has its own stories, its own legends. Stepping onto the grass is like following in the footsteps of all those fabulous players who made football the greatest show on earth. In the process of developing, designing and manufacturing ASICS football boots, technological aspects are extremely important. But we never forget about tradition.

ASICS has its own way of making history. The highlights of our new football collection form a landmark in that history.



asics.

ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: NSL TOP SIX SERIES

Sydney United march on to Grand Final showdown

By Ted Simmons

SYDNEY United newcomers Mile Sterjovski and Steve Berry tore Perth Glory apart at Marconi Stadium on Sunday to book a place in the National Soccer League Grand Final.

Goals in each half gave United a 2-1 win in the Ericsson Cup preliminary final to line up another match against defending champion South Melbourne next Sunday.

Sterjovski, Berry and Joel Griffiths were all playing their first full season with United after being signed from New South Wales State League clubs.

A wonderful moment of evasive skill from Sterjovski in the 13th minute after a pin-

that would have sent the match into extra time.

"I thought we had it sewn up and the game was dead and buried until they scored," United coach David Mitchell said.

"It was a reminder of our last game against them when we lost 4-3 in the final minutes and it was a credit to the players to come through in such style."

United, apart from patches by Glory, had the better of the game using a strong midfield and the speed of their youthful front line.

Co-striker Nathan Day hit the post in the 25th minute also hit the cross bar with a first time shot 14 minutes from fulltime.

Substitute Con Boutsianis gave Glory a chance to get

SYDNEY UNITED 2 (Sterjovski, Berry)
PERTH GLORY 1 (Boutsianis)
Venue: Edensor Park
Man of the Match: Nathan Day SUTD



point pass from Berry gave United an early lead.

Sterjovski outpaced defender Gianfranco Circati, cut infield and beat keeper Tony Franken with a shot which glanced off the keeper's body.

Griffiths started the movement which led to the 71st minute second goal when he raced down the left and crossed deep to the unmarked Berry whose angled drive hit the far post and bounced in.

Perth had started in rousing style, forcing three corners in the opening two minutes as the ball was desperately cleared off the line.

The Glory staged a similar finish in the final 10 minutes in trying to peg back the goals

back five minutes before the whistle when he was left alone wide of the goal and placed a left foot shot past keeper Mike Gibson.

But the attempted comeback suffered a serious blow when keeper Franken was sent off after charging outside his area to stop a solo run by flying United winger Danny Townsend.

"The party is over. It was a good result for us after three years and we are now the third best team in the country," said Glory coach Bernd Stange.

"Sydney United were faster, fresher and fitter and after the first 15 minutes we lost concentration.

"We tried everything with

our changes but were not strong enough."

Mitchell replaced Sterjovski after he suffered a knock midway through the second half with Griffiths who also needed treatment after an early tackle.

The United defence, again led capably by Velimir Kupresak and Richard Plesa apart from early nerves recovered strongly to hold out the Glory attack until the final few minutes.

Stange said that United was the better team and deserved to be in the Grand Final against South Melbourne but could not select which team was likely to win.

SIDELINE VIEW

United turn on some dazzling football

by Bruce Campbell

IF THE 1999 Top Six series had been disappointing to date for football connoisseurs then this match changed all that.

In the early stages Perth Glory looked likely to run rampant but they strangely faded out.

With the United midfield of Berry, Burns and Bennett taking charge for large parts of the game the way was paved for the youthful legs of first Day and Sterjovski and finally Griffiths to run Perth ragged.

At times Perth looked ordinary and had Nathan Day en-

joyed a spot of luck then United could have finished up winning by four or five clear goals.

But as so often happens when you fail to take your chances something comes out to haunt you.

For Perth that was in the shape of substitute Con Boutsianis.

Late in the game he smashed a vicious shot at goal which was well saved by United keeper Mike Gibson.

Had it gone in then it would have changed the complexion of the game, what was his first goal would have been the

equaliser.

That was well set up by another sub, John Markowski whose precision left foot cross was just pure class.

In fact, most of the class in the Glory side came from the two bench players although Alistair Edwards worked tirelessly.

The referee was spot on when he red carded Tony Franken, after the Perth keeper slid out of his area and then stuck his arm out to prevent a goal bound ball.

United were a far better winner than the one goal margin would suggest.

Inside Soccer READERS' NSL AWARDS

Nominate your favourite players for our READERS' NSL POLL. Winners will be calculated on the basis of 8 points for a first selection, 5 for a second selection and 3 for a third selection.

Send as many as you like – and the winners will be announced in our June 8 issue.

BEST PLAYER

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

BEST ROOKIE PLAYER*

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

* Under 21 player in his first ever NSL season.

BEST GOALKEEPER

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

BEST UNDER 21 PLAYER

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

Send your coupons to
Inside Soccer
Suite 4/5
108 Railway Street
CORRIMAN NSW 2518

Voting closes Friday 4 June.
e-mail and fax voting

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Ram RAM SPORTS

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Blacktown City	17	12	2	3	37	14	38
Bonnyrigg	17	12	1	4	52	27	37
Macarthur Rams	17	10	1	6	30	20	31
Leichhardt Tigers	17	9	2	6	33	25	29
Bankstown City Lions	17	9	1	7	35	27	28
Fairfield Bulls	17	8	4	5	31	29	28
Parramatta Eagles	16	8	2	6	33	20	26
Canterbury Marrickville	17	7	4	6	24	30	25
Ryde City	16	4	4	8	23	27	16
Central Coast	15	2	3	10	14	35	9
Eastern Suburbs	16	2	2	12	20	47	8
Sutherland Sharks	16	2	2	12	15	46	8

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Parramatta Eagles	16	11	3	2	37	19	36
Macarthur Rams	17	10	3	4	41	20	33
Bonnyrigg	17	11	0	6	35	23	33
Fairfield Bulls	17	9	3	5	32	33	30
Blacktown City	17	9	1	7	39	31	28
Eastern Suburbs	16	8	1	7	28	28	25
Leichhardt Tigers	17	7	1	9	34	33	22
Central Coast	16	6	4	6	23	27	22
Ryde City	16	4	4	8	21	26	16
Canterbury Marrickville	17	4	3	10	17	30	15
Sutherland Sharks	17	4	2	11	17	37	14
Bankstown City Lions	17	3	3	11	21	38	12

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Blacktown City	17	12	3	2	36	15	39
Parramatta Eagles	16	12	1	3	56	15	37
Macarthur Rams	17	11	1	5	32	23	34
Canterbury Marrickville	17	9	4	4	32	22	31
Leichhardt Tigers	17	8	4	5	21	16	28
Central Coast	16	7	2	7	25	23	23
Eastern Suburbs	16	7	2	7	26	25	23
Bankstown City Lions	17	6	1	10	27	38	19
Sutherland Sharks	17	5	3	9	19	32	18
Ryde City	16	3	5	8	13	22	14
Bonnyrigg	17	2	5	10	10	30	11
Fairfield Bulls	17	1	3	13	11	47	6

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Pt. Melbourne	16	11	4	1	41	18	37
Preston Lions	16	10	2	4	34	20	32
Green Gully Caval'Rs	16	8	6	2	29	17	30
Fawkner Blues	16	8	3	5	27	18	27
Bulleen Inter Kings	16	6	5	5	22	18	23
Melbourne Raiders	15	6	4	5	21	24	22
Altona Magic	16	6	3	7	21	31	21
Bentleigh Greens	15	5	5	5	27	17	20
Altona East Phoenix	16	5	4	7	17	23	19
South Dandenong	16	4	5	7	26	28	17
St. Albans Saints	16	5	2	9	17	24	17
Westvale	16	3	6	7	20	35	15
Spring. White Eagles	16	3	4	9	19	29	13
Sunshine Georgies	16	3	3	10	17	36	12

SCHOOLS

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP:

Rd 1	
Turramurra 3	Killara 1
Cromer 3	Beacon Hill 2
Ashfield Boys 4	Balmain 0
Narara Valley 6	Kincumber 2
Northlakes 3	Berkeley Vale 0
Gosford 6	Wyong 2
Lisarow 3	Gorokan 2
Asquith 4	Kuring-gai 1
Cherrybrook 3	Galston 2
The Forest 4	Balgowlah 2
Rd 2:	
Bossley Park 5	Fairfield 0
Elizabeth Macarthur 6	James Meehan 2
Sefton 2-4	Lurnea 2-3
Birrong Boys 8	James Busby 2
Ambarvale 2	Casula 0
Robert Townson 8	Prairiewood 3
St Johns Park 2	Miller 1
James Cook BHS 3	Kirrawee HS 2
Rd 3:	
Asquith BHS 1	Cherrybrook HS 1 (on penalties).
SHIELD:	
Rd 3:	
Pennant Hills 1	Cheltenham 0
The Entrance 3	Narara Valley 1
Albury 4	Barham 0
Wade 8	Griffith 0
Cootamundra 4	Tumut 0
Kooringal 3	Wagga Wagga 0.
METROPOLITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGES (NSW)	
Rd 4 A:	
Marist Kogarah 0	CBHS Lewisham 0
DLS Ashfield 5	Marist North Shore 1
St Leo's Wahroonga 2	Marist Pagewood 1, La Salle Bankstown 2
Marcellin Randwick 2 B:	Marcellin Randwick 2.
Marist Kogarah 1	CBHS Lewisham 1
DLS Ashfield 4	Marist North Shore 0,
St Leo's Wahroonga 1	Marist Pagewood 1.
U-15:	
Marist Kogarah 3	CBHS Lewisham 0
DLS Ashfield 1	Marist North Shore 0,
Marist Pagewood 2	St Leo's Wahroonga 0,
La Salle Bankstown 4	Marcellin Randwick 0.
BILL TURNER CUP	
Rd 1:	
Marist Pagewood 4	J J Cahill 0
Castl Hill 3	Model Farms 0
Malvina 3	Turramurra 0
Hawkesbury 3	Wimmalee 1
Quakers Hill 3	St Andrew College 0
DLS Ashfield 4	Homebush Boys 1
O'Connor 3	The Armidale School 0,
Trinity Lismore 8	Richmond River 0,
Ballina 5	Southern Cross 3
John Paul College 8	Belmont Christian 2
Bishop Drift 5	Coffs Harbour 0,
Taree 4	Christ Community 2,
Winham 2	Kendall 2
Lake Macquarie 4	Gloucester 1
Cardiff 4	Whitebridge 3
Hunter Sports 3	St Pius X 3
Toronto 6	Batemans Bay 3
Monya 4	White Eagles 0
St Joes Albion Park 7	Berkeley 1
Balranald 1	Hay 0
Deniliquin 5	Barham 0
Rd 2:	
Endeavour 5	Port Hacking 0
James Cook Boys 2	Caringbah 1
Kingsgrove 1	Kingsgrove North 0,
Randwick Boys 4	Sydney Boys 0
Narrabeen 3	Beacon Hill 2
Oakhill College 3	William Clarke College 0
Epping Boys 1	Asquith Boys 0
St Columbas 8	Cambridge Park 1, Cranberry Boys 6
nebrook 4	St Pauls Penrith 2, Can-
Dulwich 2	Dulwich 2

ACT

Premier League Division 1:
First Grade
Capital City Suns 2
Juventus 2
Belconnen United 1
Monaro 5
Canberra Deakin 6
Under 23s
Capital City Suns 1
Juventus 2
Belconnen United 2
Monaro 2
Canberra Deakin 7
UNDER 19s
Capital City Suns 0
Juventus 5
Belconnen United 8
Monaro 0
Canberra Deakin 4
Premier League Division 2:
1st Grade:
ADFA 1
ANU 0
Belwest Foxes 4
Tuggeranong Utd 1
Res Grade:
ANU 1
Belwest Foxes 11
Tuggeranong Utd 5
State League:
Division 1:
Ginninderra 1
Burns 2
Southern Spirit 2
Valley Blues 1
Division 2:
Burns 1
Ginninderra 5
Tuggeranong 2
Uni of Canberra 4,
Belconnen 6
Canberra City 3
Division 3:
ADFA 2
Weston Creek 5
Uni of Canberra 7
ADFAI 1
Canberra City 0
Harmonie 5
Division 4:
ANU 1
Harmonie 2
Canberra City 1
Weston Creek 5
Masters:
Uni of Canberra 3
White Eagles 0
St Francis 2
You

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Coniston Lions	8	5	2	1	22	10	17
Northern United	8	5	2	1	14	10	17
Wollongong Olympic	7	5	1	1	12	4	16
Bulli	8	5	1	2	15	8	16
Port Kembla	8	5	0	3	25	12	15
Kembla Warra	7	4	2	1	12	4	14
Lyasights	8	3	0	5	13	18	9
White Eagles	8	2	2	4	12	17	8
Cringila Lions	7	2	1	4	10	10	7
Woonona	8	2	0	6	7	17	6
Fernhill	8	1	1	6	5	24	4
Shoalhaven City	7	1	0	6	5	19	3

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rochedale Rovers	14	9	0	5	33	23	27
Brisbane Lions	14	8	2	4	34	24	26
Brisbane City	14	7	3	4	26	17	24
Ipswich Knights	14	7	2	5	22	18	23
Taringa Rovers	14	6	4	4	22	14	22
Gold Coast	13	4	7	2	24	20	19
Bundaberg Waves	14	5	3	6	22	22	18
Wynnum	13	4	2	7	20	27	14
Mt Gravatt	14	3	3	8	20	36	12
Toowoomba Utd	14	1	4	9	10	32	7

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	6	5	1	0	1	23	4	17
Monaro	5	4	2	0	2	24	7	16
Weston Creek Royals	6	4	2	0	2	16	7	16
Capital City Suns	6	3	1	2	1	15	9	11
Gungahlin Juventus	6	3	1	2	1	12	12	11
Canberra Deakin	6	2	2	2	1	11	7	9
Canberra Olympic	6	2	1	3	0	6	7	7
Uni of Canberra	5	1	0	5	0	11	19	3
Burns Club	6	1	0	5	0	5	23	3
Queanbeyan City	6	0	0	6	0	8	36	0

WEST AUSTRALIA SOCCER WEST COAST PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Western Knights	7	6	0	1	25	7	18
Sorrento	7	5	1	1	29	10	16
Fremantle City	7	4	1	2	18	15	13
Joondalup	6	4	1	1	17	6	13
Bayswater City	7	3	2	2	13	45	11
Ashfield Bunbury	7	3	1	3	12	13	10
Floreat Athena	7	2	2	3	17	19	8
Inglewood Falcons	7	2	2	3	11	15	8
Stirling Lions	7	2	0	5	10	22	6
Perth SC	7	1	2	4	5	12	5
Cockburn City	6	1	1	4	7	18	4
Kingsway Olympic	7	1	1	5	5	23	4

Shoalhaven Assoc 2 Central Coast 2
NSW INST Acad 7 Sydney United 1.

SECOND GRADE:
Sutherland Sharks 6 UWS 1
Marconi Fairfield 5 NNSW ITC 0
Gladesville Ravens 4 Nepean Panthers 0,
Central Coast 5 Shoalhaven Assoc 2,
NSW INST 6 Sydney United 1.
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE ONE:

FIRST GRADE:
Roselands 2 Eastern Suburbs 2,
Wollongong Wolves 1 Manly Warringah 1,
Gladesville Koalas 2 Bankstown United 0,
St George Assoc 2 Bathurst City 0.
SECOND GRADE:
Eastern Suburbs 4 Roselands 0,
Wollongong Wolves 1 Manly Warringah 1,
Gladesville Koalas 2 Bankstown United 1,
St George Assoc 2 Bathurst City 0.
SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:
G/13:
Wollongong Wolves 3 Marconi Fairfield 0,
Eastern Suburbs 1 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 3 Marconi Fairfield 1,
Sutherland Sharks 1 Parramatta Eagles 0,
Manly Warringah 1 Sydney United 0 0,
Blacktown City 4 Macarthur Rams 1,
Sydney Olympic 3 Southern Districts 1,
Newcastle Breakers 1 Southern Branch 1,
Wollongong Wolves 5 Central Coast 1
Wollongong Wolves 3 Leichhardt Tigers 1,
Gladesville Hornsby 1 Eastern Suburbs 0,

Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 2 Manly Warringah 1,
Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle Breakers 0,
Central Coast 1 Southern Branch 1.

G/14:
Marconi Fairfield 1 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 4 Eastern Suburbs 1,
Gladesville Hornsby 2 Marconi Fairfield 0,
Sutherland Sharks 1 Parramatta Eagles 0,
Sydney United 4 Manly Warringah 0,
Blacktown City 2 Macarthur Rams 1,
Sydney Olympic 5 Southern Districts 1,
Southern Branch 2 Newcastle Breakers 1,
Wollongong Wolves 1 Central Coast 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 5 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Gladesville Hornsby 3 Eastern Suburbs 2,
Sydney United 0 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Manly Warringah 1 Macarthur Rams 0,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Sydney Olympic 2,
Southern Branch 1 Central Coast 0.

G/15:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/16:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/17:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/18:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/19:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/20:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/21:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/22:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/23:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/24:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,
Gladesville Hornsby 5 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 0,
Macarthur Rams 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Newcastle Breakers 5 Sydney Olympic 1,
Central Coast 2 Southern Branch 0.

G/25:
Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 0,
Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs 0,
Marconi Fairfield 1 Gladesville Hornsby 1,
Sutherland Sharks 3 Parramatta Eagles 2,
Sydney United 1 Manly Warringah 0,
Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown City 2,
Southern Districts 5 Sydney Olympic 2,
Newcastle Breakers 3 Southern Branch 0,
Central Coast 2 Wollongong Wolves 2,
Wollongong Wolves 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0,

STOP PRESS

The Back Page

Strange warns SA; lift your game

By Ted Simmons

PERTH Glory coach Bernd Strange today warned Australian soccer officials to lift their game before the Sydney Olympics next year.

Strange was upset after midfielder Craig Deans was badly injured in the Ericsson Cup preliminary final against Sydney United at Marconi Stadium and was unable to get quick treatment.

Deans suffered a badly dislocated left shoulder in a clash with United defenders in the 30th minute and was left on the ground while ground officials tried to find a stretcher. He finally had to be assisted from the ground by two officials and was taken to the dressing room where he had a further wait before he could be taken to hospital.

"With the Olympics in 15 months it is wrong not to have a stretcher for an injured player," said the German born mentor. "It looked like amateur soccer. I am a professional coach and cannot understand this."

Deans was on the ground for nearly three minutes before he could be moved and finally replaced by Danny Hay.

"Australian soccer needs to become a little more professional and with better marketing maybe then it will have a big future but at present it is only mid-class," said Strange. "Its results have been poor and Australia did not play in the World Cup. It has been described as a sleeping giant and has big potential but results are important."



Red Devils: you can quote that

THE mighty Manchester United are on their way to Australia - with another big time date at the European Cup final on Wednesday first.

Victory in the European Cup will give the Red devils an historic treble after they completed their third League and Cup double of the decade by defeating Newcastle United 2-0 at Wembley on Saturday.

INCLUDED in this Back Page tribute to the reds are some memorable British press quotes over the last

day or two; "It's fantastic - three Doubles in five years. The boys were marvellous." - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

"We were punished for our mistakes. We were pushing, pushing, pushing but you can't afford to make mistakes. In the end we had to be thankful they did not get three, four or five (goals)." - Newcastle manager Ruud Gullit.

"It's amazing how this game changes around. One minute

you are down, the next you are up. I was devastated not to be picked. I'm 33 now and you don't think you're going to get another chance." - goalscorer and man of the match Teddy Sheringham.

"I have got to be professional about this. The game on Wednesday is so very important that I can't let this go to my head." - Peter Schmeichel.

"United are the benchmark and we've got to be as good as them. I hope they do the treble now." - Newcastle's Gary



Bernd finishes his season with a party

PERTH Glory were determined to party last Sunday night regardless of their defeat by Sydney United.

Glory coach Bernd Strange said everything was a bonus for his men and they aimed to savour the moment at Marconi Stadium, no matter what.

"We've done what we expected to do this season and more, we aimed for the Top Six and we've already done better than that," Strange said before the vital match.

"We will be having a party if we win or lose."

Glory has never played in the finals before and Strange could justifiably stamp "mission accomplished" on this season's file.

Despite United not having won against Perth in Sydney since 1996 the westerners went into the game as underdogs.

The Preliminary Final was a superb game which was watched by a disappointingly small crowd.

Once again the match was shown on a two hour delayed broadcast around the country and that, plus some overcast weather, affected what should have been a capacity crowd.

Both Perth and United have had excellent seasons and Glory coach Bernd Strange has been a revelation in his first season.

He is likely to be up against United's avid Mitchell again in a few weeks' time when the pair are almost certain to be nominees for the NSL Coach of the Year award.

The award is voted on by other NSL coaches and the general feeling in the industry is that Mitchell has the slight edge on his more experienced rival, a former East German national team boss.

Speed.

"Roll on Wednesday. I have sympathy for Newcastle. It's two years on the trot at Wembley with nothing to show for it." - former Magpie Andy Cole.

"The substitution made it for us, but the squad is what it is all about. The whole squad deserve the credit. I just pray

we can win on Wednesday." - Manchester's Roy Keane, taken off injured after eight minutes.

"It wasn't the best of goals, I didn't hit it too well but it went in, thankfully." - second goal scorer Paul Scholes.

"I've just enjoyed the season. This tops it all off for me. You

play hoping to finish up with something and we've got two trophies now." - David Beckham.

"All along we have said the other games are important but Wednesday really is the big one for us. We couldn't go into the game with any more confidence after winning the championship and the Cup." - Gary Neville.